United Nations

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

First Report on the Proposed Programme Budget for the Biennium 1996-1997

General Assembly
Official Records • Fiftieth Session
Supplement No. 7 (A/50/7)

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ABBREVIATIONS

ACC	Administrative Committee on Coordination
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICJ	International Court of Justice
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
IMIS	Integrated Management Information System
ITC	International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNDCP	United Nations International Drug Control Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDIR	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNJSPB	United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board
UNJSPF	United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
UNU	United Nations University
WFP	World Food Programme

PREFACE

1. The major functions of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, as defined by the General Assembly in resolution 14 (I) of 13 February 1946, are:

> "(a) To examine and report on the budget submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly;
>
> "(b) To advise the General Assembly concerning any administrative and budgetary matters referred to it;
>
> "(c) To examine on behalf of the General Assembly the administrative budgets of the specialized agencies and proposals for financial arrangements with such agencies;
>
> "(d) To consider and report to the General Assembly on the auditors' reports on the accounts of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies."

The Advisory Committee also reports on the financing of peace-keeping operations. In addition, the Advisory Committee reports on administrative budgets and other matters to the governing bodies of UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR (voluntary funds), UNEP (Environment Fund), the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, UNIDIR, UNITAR, UNU, WFP, UNDCP and UNRWA.

2. Under rule 156 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the members of the Advisory Committee, no two of whom shall be nationals of the same State, shall be selected on the basis of broad geographical representation, personal qualifications and experience.

3. The Advisory Committee has the following membership:

H.E. Mr. C. S. M. MSELLE (Chairman)

Mr. Gérard BIRAUD (Vice-Chairman)

H.E. Mr. Ahmad Fathi AL-MASRI

Mr. Leonid E. BIDNY

Ms. Linda S. SHENWICK

H.E. Mr. E. Besley MAYCOCK

Mr. Ranjit RAE

Mr. Jorge José DUHALT

H.E. Mr. YU Mengjia

Mr. Simon Khoam CHUINKAM

Ms. Inga ERIKSSON FOGH

Mr. Yuji KUMAMARU

Ms. Norma GOICOCHEA ESTENOZ

Mr. Ioan BARAC

Mr. Mahamane MAIGA

Mr. Wolfgang STÖCKL

4. The present report contains the conclusions and recommendations arrived at by the Advisory Committee on the basis of the Secretary-General's proposals for the 1996-1997 programme budget, supplemented, to the extent possible, by additional information supplied orally or in writing by representatives of the Secretary-General. As in the past, provision is made in certain sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 for expenditures to which some Member States have objections in principle. Some members of the Committee have repeated those objections and stated their reasons therefor. At the same time, the Committee considered that the controversy concerning such items does not fall within the province of the Advisory Committee, which under rule 157 of the rules of procedure is "responsible for expert examination of the programme budget of the United Nations".

C. S. M. MSELLE
Chairman

CHAPTER I

PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

GENERAL

1. For the biennium 1996-1997, the Secretary-General proposes a programme budget 1/ in the amount of $2,687,067,800 for the expenditure sections and $461,421,400 for the income sections. On a net basis, the estimates for 1996-1997 amount, therefore, to $2,225,646,400. In the following table the estimates for 1996-1997 are compared with the revised appropriations for 1994-1995, as approved by the General Assembly in resolution 49/220 of 23 December 1994, and with the actual expenditure in the biennium 1992-1993.

2. In paragraph 4 of its resolution 49/217 of 23 December 1994 on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1996-1997, the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General "to prepare his proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 on the basis of the total preliminary estimate provided by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions of 2,574,000,000 United States dollars at the initial 1994-1995 rates, recosted to 2,548,400,000 dollars at revised 1994-1995 rates and taking into account also actual expenditure data as available for 1994". The proposed programme budget at revised 1994-1995 rates, represents a decrease of $38.2 million or 1.5 per cent from the budget outline estimate (at revised 1994-1995 rates).

3. The Secretary-General's programme budget proposals for 1996-1997 cover the regular budget of the Organization. The estimates of extrabudgetary resources that are likely to be available to the United Nations in the coming biennium are also given; updated figures provided to the Advisory Committee on the data from table 8 of the introduction 2/ indicate a total of $4,434,509,700, comprising $420,187,500 for support services, $248,727,000 for substantive activities and $3,765,595,200 for operational projects. The grand total, including the net estimate for the regular budget, is therefore $6,660,156,100.

4. The estimates do not include the costs of peace-keeping operations, which are funded separately. The Advisory Committee was informed that for 1994-1995 actual and projected assessments on Member States in respect of these peace-keeping operations are expected to total $6,658,000,000.

Proposed programme budget, 1996-1997

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	Estimates 1996-1997 (1)	Revised appropriation 1994-1995 (2)	Total increase 1996-1997 over 1994-1995 Col. (1)-(2) (3)	Total increase 1996-1997 over 1994-1995 Col. (3)/(2) Percentage (4)	Actual expenditure and income 1992-1993 (5)	Increase: 1996-1997 over 1992-1993 Col (1)-(5) (6)
Expenditure	2 687 067.8	2 608 274.4	78 793.4	3.0	2 375 369.2	311 698.6
Income	461 421.4	432 080.5	29 340.9	6.8	446 196.2	15 225.2
Net	2 225 646.4	2 176 193.9	49 452.5	2.3	1 929 173.0	296 473.4

Format

5. The Advisory Committee notes with satisfaction that the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997 was submitted on time; this has greatly facilitated the Committee's work. The Committee points out, however, that it worked on the basis of an advance text of the proposed programme budget, which is being corrected prior to printing in final form. The Advisory Committee has reflected such corrections to the proposed programme budget as it called for or received in the present report. The proposed programme budget for 1996-1997 is presented in two parts as it was for 1994-1995. The prototype of the new budget format was originally commented upon by the Advisory Committee in a report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session (A/47/7/Add.9, paras. 15-19). In paragraph 23 of chapter I of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, 3/ the Advisory Committee noted the efforts made but indicated that:

> "... a lot remains to be done. In particular, part I should evolve into a self-contained document upon which the General Assembly could take decisions; as it is now, it is merely an extended version of the former introduction. The amount of statistical information contained in part I should be simplified and reduced. Furthermore, the main emphasis in part I should be on the narrative, which needs to be more specific so as to facilitate decision-making. Part II should become more analytical in order to provide relevant detail as needed in support of the specific proposals in part I. In particular, part II should contain a complete set of organigrams for each organizational unit."

6. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, the presentation of the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997 represents considerable progress, particularly with respect to part I and the summary of sections contained therein. The Committee's recommendations relating to presentation of requirements contained in paragraph 28 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for 1994-1995 3/ has been followed, as has the Advisory Committee's recommendations to group P-1/P-2 and P-3/P-4 posts (endorsed by the General Assembly in sect. I, para. 11, of its resolution 49/222 A of 23 December 1994); however, further refinement is still necessary. For example, the object of expenditure for general operating expenses in a number of sections includes hospitality requirements together with estimated expenditure for maintenance of equipment (see para. 1.58 of the proposed programme budget 2/ as an illustration). This is confusing since there is a separate object of expenditure for purchase of equipment. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, estimates for hospitality should be presented separately and estimates for both acquisition and maintenance of equipment should be associated (although shown distinctly) in order to more easily ascertain all expenditure on equipment.

7. The Committee continues to believe that a complete set of organigrams (including one for the Organization as a whole) should have been provided in part two for each organizational unit, both for present and proposed structures. The Committee received proposed organigrams (except for the Office of the Secretary-General) during the consideration of the individual sections of part two; the Committee recommends that a complete set of present and proposed organigrams should be issued by the Secretary-General as an addendum to the proposed programme budget. The Committee believes there is a need to explain better the rationale adopted for the present administrative structure of the Secretariat, including definitions for the different administrative units (divisions, branches, services, sections, etc.), the criteria for their establishment and operations and how they relate to each other. A better

definition of the administrative units would make more transparent the rationale for the grading of the staff in charge of each unit.

8. The Committee has made a number of other observations and recommendations with regard to the need for improved presentation or better supporting detail and analysis with regard to a number of the budget sections in the paragraphs in chapter II below.

9. The Advisory Committee notes with satisfaction that much work has been done to simplify and rationalize the tabular information presented in part one of the proposed programme budget, as can be seen below:

Comparison of tables and annexes in the introduction to the proposed programme budgets for the bienniums 1994-1995 and 1996-1997

1994-1995 a/	1996-1997
T-1 Structure of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995	
T-2 Adjustments to revised appropriation by section of the proposed programme budget	
T-3 Allocation of resources by part of the programme budget	
T-4 Allocation of resources by section of the programme budget	
T-5 Proposed regular budget posts by part of the programme budget	Table 6. Proposed regular budget established and temporary posts by part of the programme budget
T-6 Proposed regular budget posts by section of the programme budget	
T-7 Allocation of resources by main object of expenditure	Table 4. Summary of 1996-1997 estimates by object of expenditure
T-8 Distribution of extrabudgetary resources in the bienniums 1992-1993 and 1994-1995 by part of the programme budget	
T-9 Distribution of extrabudgetary resources in the bienniums 1992-1993 and 1994-1995 by section of the programme budget	Table 8. Estimates of extrabudgetary funds in the bienniums 1994-1995 and 1996-1997 by section of the programme budget
T-10 Distribution of extrabudgetary posts in the bienniums 1992-1993 and 1994-1995 by part of the programme budget	
T-11 Distribution of extrabudgetary posts in the bienniums 1992-1993 and 1994-1995 by section of the programme budget	Table 9. Extrabudgetary resources: summary by section of the programme budget and object of expenditure for the bienniums 1994-1995 and 1996-1997
OT-1 Total budget	Table 1. Total budget
OT-2 Posts by major category	Table 2. Posts by source of funds
OT-3 Regular budget income by major category	
OT-4 Extrabudgetary resources by major category	
OT-5 Regular budget costs by sector	
OT-6 Posts by part of the budget	

1994-1995 a/	1996-1997
A-I Summary of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995	Table 3. Summary of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997
A-II Projections for 1993, 1994 and 1995 in respect of rates of exchange and average annual rates of inflation, by main duty station	Table 11.A. Rates of exchange and annual rates of inflation for 1994 to 1997 by main duty station
	Table 11.B. Post adjustment multiplier and cost of living for 1994 to 1997 by main duty station
	Table 11.C. Rates of common staff costs as a percentage of net salaries for the bienniums 1992-1993, 1994-1995 and 1996-1997 by main duty station
A-III (a) Established posts authorized for the biennium 1992-1993 and proposed for the biennium 1994-1995 under the regular budget	Table 7. Established posts authorized for the biennium 1994-1995 and proposed for the biennium 1996-1997 under the regular budget
A-III (b) Temporary posts authorized for the biennium 1992-1993 and proposed for the biennium 1994-1995 under the regular budget	
A-IV Distribution of 1992-1993 appropriations and 1994-1995 estimates by section/organizational unit of the budget and by main object of expenditure	Table 5. Distribution of 1994-1995 appropriations and 1996-1997 estimates by section/organizational unit of the budget and by main object of expenditure
A-V (a) Extrabudgetary resources: summary, by section, of the anticipated level of extrabudgetary support services during 1994-1995	
A-V (b) Anticipated extrabudgetary staffing table during 1994-1995	Table 10. Extrabudgetary posts: Summary by section of the programme budget and by level for the bienniums 1994-1995 and 1996-1997

a/ The 1994-1995 proposed programme budget contained three types of statistical presentation, called tables, overview tables and annexes. The following codes are used above to identify the specific type:

OT = Overview tables

T = Tables of the introduction

A = Annexes to the introduction

10. Presentation of extrabudgetary resources has been refined with the inclusion of data on actual expenditure for 1992-1993 and an object of expenditure analysis for the 1996-1997 estimates.

11. In paragraph 21 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for 1994-1995, 3/ the Advisory Committee expressed the view that urgent thought should be given to the implications of the proposed structure of the proposed programme budget on the management of resources and pointed out the need for establishing the underlying rationale for the establishment of separate sections.

12. According to information received, with regard to the structure, the primary criterion is that a section should represent one department. Of the 35 sections in the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997, 25 met the criterion. In addition, according to the Secretary-General, there are a number of activities for expenses which, while they may be related to a particular major office, require that they be identified separately. These are: (a) the regular programme of technical cooperation; (b) construction; (c) special expenses; (d) major innovations projects; and (e) jointly financed activities. In response to section V of General Assembly resolution 49/219 of 23 December 1994, a separate section was included for Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development. Two other sections are for financing of the International Seabed Authority and Staff assessment.

13. According to the Secretary-General, two sections include elements of a common but diverse nature: section 1. Overall policy-making, direction and coordination; and section 26. Administration and management. The latter includes, in addition to the Department of Administration and Management, the administrative offices at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi, as well as Conference Services. In this way, the central support services provided to the Organization as a whole are presented together.

14. Section 1 groups, on the policy-making organs side, resources for the holding of the General Assembly sessions and for its subsidiary bodies that do not serve as specialized bodies to a particular department or office and whose terms of reference involve matters of general application to the activities of the Organization as a whole. It also includes resources for the Secretary-General, his immediate office and the offices of the Director-General at Vienna and Geneva. Upon inquiry, representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Committee that, in response to section I, paragraph 20, of General Assembly resolution 48/228 A of 23 December 1993, consideration had been given to the question of establishing one section for external oversight activities. The preliminary conclusion is that there is no overriding advantage to this; however, the question is still being studied by the Secretariat and the General Assembly may wish to follow up on this.

15. According to the Secretary-General, with regard to the management of resources, while funds are appropriated by the General Assembly by section, the allotments issued, which constitute the authorization to commit funds covering a specific period, are in a finer degree of detail than the breakdown shown in the budget document; the aim is to monitor expenditure vis-à-vis the appropriation limit. In this connection, the Advisory Committee points out that transfers between sections require its prior concurrence.

16. In response to questions on how the Administration has responded to recommendations of the Board of Auditors and of the Advisory Committee on the need to strengthen allotment control (see the report of the Advisory Committee

to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session (A/45/570, paras. 11 and 12)), the Committee was informed of the following: a system to monitor expenditures was put in place starting in 1994 in the Programme Planning and Budget Division. Monthly expenditure reports are analysed on a regular and systematic basis. Each budget officer receives monthly expenditure reports from each unit and is required to analyse the expenditures. The analysis requires that any significant point be identified and remedial action where necessary, indicated. Expenditures in excess of allotments are drawn to the attention of departments/offices concerned or to the Accounts Division for appropriate corrective action. According to the representatives of the Secretary-General, the monthly analysis of expenditures, in addition to strengthening allotment control, serves many purposes: acquiring a better and more thorough understanding of the recipient departments and offices; anticipating instances where the level of approved resources is not likely to be adequate and finding solutions; forecasting expenditures for the biennium; and dealing with requests for additional resources in the context of programme budget implications.

Methodology

17. As indicated in paragraph 36 of the introduction to the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997, 2/ the methodology followed for the preparation of the proposed programme budget is the same as that used for the previous biennium and endorsed by the General Assembly in section III of its resolution 47/212 A of 23 December 1992. One refinement, however, has been made in response to the Advisory Committee's recommendation in paragraph 67 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for 1994-1995 3/ that the delayed recruitment factor for both Professional and General Service posts be reinstituted. A delayed recruitment reduction of 50 per cent for new Professional posts and 35 per cent for new General Service posts has accordingly been applied.

18. The Advisory Committee understands that heads of departments and programmes were actively engaged in the preparation of the estimates although the final decision on resource requirements was made by the Secretary-General. The Advisory Committee also was informed that expenditure patterns have been taken into account in formulating requirements. While recognizing that budget preparation in the United Nations has traditionally followed the incremental approach, the Advisory Committee believes that the base should be scrutinized critically to ensure that it contains only those resources required to meet continuing needs, taking into account current mandates. In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General in the second and third phases of his approach to enhancing the efficiency and improving the performance of the Organization (see paras. 44-47 below).

19. The reductions recommended by the Advisory Committee, as contained in chapter II below, are less than what has been traditionally recommended by the Committee for previous bienniums. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997 represents an effort to achieve a more cost-effective approach to the requirements of the United Nations in the coming biennium. For the most part, the observations and recommendations in the paragraphs below and in chapter II are aimed at issues of administration and management so as to ensure the most effective utilization of such resources as may be approved by the General Assembly. In a number of paragraphs below, the Advisory Committee has made observations on areas where the Advisory Committee believes economies can be achieved without recommending a reduction at the present time. These areas include, for example, the productivity gains that can be realized as the result of technological innovations, review of publications programme, strict control of expenditures on travel and consultants and the

possibilities for greater accuracy in forecasting costing standards. The Advisory Committee expects that expenditures in these areas will be carefully monitored with a view to achieving economies. In this connection, the Advisory Committee understands that the second and third phases of the Secretary-General's approach to enhancing the efficiency and improving the performance of the Organization will be soon under way (see paras. 44-47 below). The Committee trusts that such economies as may be identified will be achievable without compromising the ability of the Organization to carry out fully all the mandates entrusted to it by the competent legislative bodies. Should the Secretary-General be of the view that certain activities should no longer be carried out, or should be modified, or that priorities should be reordered so as to achieve the desired level of savings, it is encumbent upon him to make the necessary programmatic proposals to the General Assembly.

20. In chapter II below, there are several references to contracting out, which the Administration is exploring in a number of areas. The Advisory Committee trusts that future proposals for contracting out United Nations services will be developed on the basis of clear criteria, including not only cost effectiveness but the need to ensure reliability and flexibility in the service to be provided. It is also essential to ensure that the special requirements of the United Nations as an international organization, including requirements of the Charter of the United Nations, are not adversely affected.

21. In resolution 48/218 B of 29 July 1994, the General Assembly reaffirmed its resolution 48/218 A of 23 December 1993, in which it emphasized the need to ensure respect for the separate and distinct roles of internal and external oversight mechanisms, and to strengthen the external oversight mechanisms. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997 should have indicated a specific response to this resolution.

22. In a number of places in chapter II below, the Advisory Committee has called for closer cooperation between various units of the Secretariat, for example, between the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, and between the Department of Public Information and the Department of Peace-keeping Operations. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, there is a need to strengthen coordination between Secretariat units with a view to achieving a better use of resources. Clear information on how this has been or is to be achieved should be included in the next programme budget proposal.

23. The Advisory Committee believes there is a need to recall again (as it did in para. 16 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for 1994-1995) 3/ the provisions of section VI of resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990 in which the General Assembly:

> "1. Reaffirms that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters;
>
> "2. Reaffirms also the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;
>
> "3. Expresses its concern at the tendency of its substantive Committees and other intergovernmental bodies to involve themselves in administrative and budgetary matters;

> "4. Invites the Secretary-General to provide all intergovernmental bodies with the required information regarding procedures for administrative and budgetary matters."

ANALYSIS OF THE EXPENDITURE ESTIMATES FOR 1996-1997

24. As noted in paragraph 1 above, the expenditure estimates for 1996-1997 amount to $2,687,067,800, as compared with revised appropriations of $2,608,274,400 for 1994-1995 approved by the General Assembly in resolution 49/220. This represents an increase in nominal terms of $78,793,400, or 3.0 per cent, and compares with a nominal increase of $281,605,800, or 11.4 per cent, for the initial estimates for 1994-1995 over the revised estimates for the biennium 1992-1993. There is a resource reduction of $98.1 million or 3.8 per cent, before recosting (table 3 of the introduction to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 2/ mentions 3.7 per cent).

25. The calculation of the level of the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997 is shown below:

	Thousands of United States dollars	Percentage
1994-1995 appropriation	2 608 274.4	100.0
Budgetary growth	(98 120.7)	(3.8)
Provision for recosting, i.e., exchange rate adjustment of 1995 over 1994 and projected inflation in 1995, 1996 and 1997	176 914.1	6.8
Proposed programme budget for 1996-1997	2 687 067.8	103.0

26. The budget resource reduction of $98.1 million can be broken down as follows:

	United States dollars
Provisions not carried over from 1994-1995	(92 804 100)
Cost of conference-servicing posts taken over from UNIDO in 1995	20 678 800
Delayed impact relating to new posts in 1994-1995	8 616 900
Reductions in proposed programme budget	(34 612 300)
Total	(98 120 700)

The Advisory Committee's observations on the elements comprising the 1996-1997 expenditure estimates, as shown above, are given below.

27. Provisions not carried over from the biennium 1994-1995 include the following:

Description	Thousands of United States dollars	
Special missions		48 914.1
Construction - ECA		17 241.9
Global conferences		
Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States	573.9	
Conference on Population and Development	908.0	
World Summit for Social Development	2 628.0	
Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders	1 092.8	
Fourth World Conference on Women	2 372.7	
Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)	1 264.4	
Ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	619.7	
		9 459.5
Protection of the global climate		3 054.5
Activities in apartheid		
Department of Political Affairs	4 558.8	
Department of Public Information	1 921.2	
		6 480.0
Law of the sea and ocean affairs		1 328.3
International Court of Justice		187.3
Staff assessment		6 138.5
Total		92 804.1

28. In paragraph 4 of the introduction to the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997, 2/ it is explained that the amount of $11.1 million at revised 1994-1995 prices represents the net increase to the regular budget for 1994-1995 of taking over from UNIDO the conference-servicing functions at Vienna. The amount of $20,678,800 represents the increase for 1996-1997 on a biennial basis in respect of 128 posts transferred to the United Nations. Like the amount for delayed impact discussed below, it reflects the additional cost of implementing a decision by the General Assembly when it is only partly funded, in the biennium subsequent to the decision. In the case of the conference-servicing arrangements at Vienna between UNIDO and the United Nations, the increase in cost attributable to posts is partly offset by other reductions, the major one being under contributions to joint services. An amount of $12,572,400, not all relating to the transfer of functions, is mentioned in paragraph 39 below.

29. Delayed impact relating to new posts in the biennium 1994-1995 is an amount which becomes a mandatory increase in the biennium 1996-1997 after the General Assembly adopted the recommendation of the Advisory Committee to discount a provision for delayed recruitment of staff in connection with new posts approved for the biennium 1994-1995. The delayed recruitment factor is 50 per cent for posts in the Professional category and above and 35 per cent for posts in the General Service and related categories. The Secretary-General has calculated this deduction in respect of new posts proposed for the biennium 1996-1997.

30. The estimates shown under "net provisions" in the proposed programme budget, at revised 1994-1995 rates, show a decrease of $34,612,300. A breakdown by object of expenditure shows the following increases and decreases in order of magnitude:

	Thousands of United States dollars
1. Decreases	
Posts	6 625.0
Equipment	7 010.3
General operating expenses	4 776.2
Supplies and materials	3 278.9
Consultants and experts	551.1
Furniture	18.4
Contractual services	9.3
Others	17 688.1
Subtotal (1)	39 957.3
2. Increases	
Other staff costs	2 846.0
Travel	1 486.5
Improvement of premises	1 000.3
Fellowships, grants and contributions	12.2
Subtotal (2)	5 345.0
Total decrease (1)-(2)	34 612.3

31. The deduction under posts is the net result of decreases under salaries and common staff costs amounting to $8,222,800, offset by increases totalling $1,597,800 under other common staff costs.

32. The Advisory Committee requested the following information on the components of common staff costs by duty station, which are standard rates expressed as a percentage of salaries.

Composition of common staff costs
(as a percentage of salaries)

Duty station	New York	Geneva	Bangkok	Santiago	Mexico	Port-of-Spain	Addis Ababa	Amman	Vienna	Nairobi	ICJ
Total	40.1	32.0	42.1	37.3	38.8	38.6	77.0	79.6	36.3	65.4	33.4
Components											
Staff allowances a/	2.9	3.5	5.2	5.4	5.3	6.6	19.0	23.4	2.7	14.2	2.4
Social security payments b/	26.3	20.9	23.0	25.3	22.7	23.8	25.7	26.5	23.0	23.2	19.6
Education grants	3.8	2.3	6.3	1.1	3.5	1.7	14.0	13.6	2.7	8.7	1.1
Home leave	1.6	1.0	1.4	1.1	1.1	0.2	7.9	1.2	1.8	4.9	0.5
Appointment c/	1.5	0.8	1.8	0.7	0.9	5.2	4.9	1.5	2.1	2.6	2.3
Separation d/	2.5	2.5	1.5	2.4	3.3	0.0	1.8	3.5	3.2	6.6	7.1
Other payments e/	0.6	0.4	1.2	0.3	0.2	1.1	1.9	5.5	0.5	4.8	0.4
Transfer f/	0.9	0.6	1.7	1.0	1.8	0.0	1.8	4.4	0.3	0.4	0.0

a/ Dependency, assignment, hardship and mobility, hazardous duty station allowances.

b/ Contributions to: pension, medical insurance and compensatory payments

c/ Travel on appointment; travel on interview, removal of household effects and insurance on shipment of effects.

d/ Travel on separation, removal of household effects, repatriation grants, commutation of annual leave and termination indemnities.

e/ Rent supplements, family evacuation travel and taxi fares

f/ Travel on transfer, assignment grant, removal of household effects, shipment and residential security measures.

The Advisory Committee notes that in a number of agencies, common staff costs are estimated on the basis of actual post-by-post experience. In view of the large number of United Nations staff and the number of duty stations, the Advisory Committee recognizes that this is not yet possible for the United Nations. As seen in the table above, the United Nations estimates common staff costs on the basis of standard percentages of salaries. However, with the introduction of IMIS, the Advisory Committee trusts that progress will be made in targeting common staff costs standards with much greater precision and that the standards can be explained and justified with clarity in the future proposed programme budgets.

33. As regards "other common staff costs", the Advisory Committee was informed that the net increase of $1,597,800 is composed of the following:

Other common staff costs

	Thousands of United States dollars
1. Increases	
After-service health insurance	2 442.5
Pension to former ICJ judges	153.8
Subtotal	2 596.3
2. Decreases	
Insurance of staff	621.8
Daily mission subsistence allowance	148.8
Staff welfare	180.6
Other	47.3
Subtotal	998.5
Net total increase	1 597.8

34. The decrease of $7,010,300 under equipment reflects reductions under all line objects. The major reductions are found in office automation equipment ($4,021,500), conference servicing equipment ($1,286,300), public information ($426,600) and communications ($380,700). Other reductions amounting to $895,200 are also proposed under office equipment, transportation, security service and other equipment.

35. The decrease under general operating expenses amounts to $4,776,200 and breaks down as follows:

(a) Decreases totalling $7,855,100 relate to rental and maintenance of premises ($3,098,900), communications ($3,332,300) and maintenance of furniture and equipment ($1,423,900);

(b) Increases totalling $3,078,900 relate to utilities ($2,395,400), rental of furniture and equipment ($299,000), hospitality and official functions ($42,200) and other expenses ($342,300).

36. The decrease under supplies and materials in the amount of $3,278,900 reflects reductions under office supplies ($1,836,100), internal reproduction supplies ($1,267,000) and other supplies ($222,100), offset by increases in the order of $46,300 for library books and supplies and public information supplies.

37. The decrease of $551,100 under consultants and experts is attributable to reduced requirements for consultants and for ad hoc expert group meetings.

38. The reduction of $9,300 under contractual services is the net result of decreases totalling $3,811,400 under external printing, data processing services and contractual engineering being offset by increases in the same order of magnitude under contractual translation, training, public information and other services.

39. Decreases total $17,688,100 under other line objects. These relate to contributions to joint services ($12,572,400), which is mainly owing to the new arrangements for conference services at Vienna; IMIS accounts for a decrease of $3,672,900 and staff assessment for a decrease of $1,442,800.

40. The increase of $2,846,000 under other staff costs relates to increases proposed under general temporary assistance ($4,689,500) and temporary assistance for meetings ($326,900), offset by reductions under other personnel services ($2,131,200) and overtime and night differential ($39,200).

41. Of the increase proposed under travel in the amount of $1,486,500, a total of $1,129,900 relates to travel of representatives and $356,600 to travel of staff. As regards travel of staff, the proposed increase is net of a reduction under travel of staff to meetings in the amount of $242,500.

42. The increase of $1,000,300 under improvement of premises reflects the new provisions for major maintenance in the amount of $4,912,400 offset by reductions under alterations and improvements of $3,912,100.

43. The net increase of $12,200 under fellowships, grants and contributions reflects an increase of $79,700 for fellowships, offset by $67,500 under grants and contributions.

44. As can be seen from the paragraphs above, the description of the various changes which resulted in a net budget reduction of $34.6 million (before recosting) makes no reference to the "efficiency gains" of $35.5 million indicated in paragraph 5 of the introduction to the proposed programme budget. 2/ Although, presumably, these gains had a significant impact on the net savings of $34.6 million, it is difficult to pinpoint with precision exactly how and where all the "efficiency gains" arise. A general indication by budget part is given in the table following paragraph 5 of the introduction, but this table has been made more complicated by "adjusting" the 1994-1995 revised estimates approved in December 1994 to include estimates for 1995 of the cost of taking over conference functions from UNIDO.

45. In response to its request, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Secretary-General has launched a three-phased approach designed to enhance the efficiency and improve the performance of the Organization. Phase one, which was initiated as part of the preparation of the budget, involved the

identification of cost-effective measures from which efficiency gains could be realized without having a negative impact on the implementation of mandates. According to the representatives of the Secretary-General, these amounted to a savings of $35.5 million and were achieved through a combination of measures, including a streamlining of structures, simplification of work procedures and productivity gains resulting from prior investments in technological innovations. According to the Secretary-General, these were not restricted to the area of administration or to Headquarters but covered the entire Organization.

46. The Advisory Committee was informed that the second phase would involve the identification of areas where duplication and overlap might exist and of measures needed to eliminate such redundancies. The third phase would comprise a review of activities and services which were being undertaken but which were deemed to provide minimal or no value. These would be brought to the attention of the General Assembly for appropriate decision.

47. The Advisory Committee trusts that future reporting on measures to enhance the performance of the Organization will be much more specific and will contain sufficient and clear information to justify that these measures do indeed represent improved productivity and cover the entire Organization both at Headquarters and elsewhere.

Recosting

48. The total estimate under recosting is $176,914,100, of which $5,507,800 relates to non-recurrent items. The results of recosting represent adjustments to the estimates at revised 1994-1995 rates in order to recalculate the level of resources at 1996-1997 price levels. The total amount that results from recosting represents 6.8 per cent of the revised 1994-1995 appropriation. Projections of rates of exchange and inflation are contained in table 11 of the introduction to the proposed programme budget. 2/ The elements in recosting are:

	United States dollars
Converting first year provision from 1994 exchange rates to 1995 exchange rates	20 897 200
Inflation in 1995, 1996 and 1997	156 016 900
Total	176 914 100

49. In accordance with the Financial Regulations of the United Nations, the report of the Advisory Committee on the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget is normally prepared in the spring preceding the biennium to which the proposed programme budget relates. Towards the end of that year, the Secretary-General traditionally submits revised estimates resulting from the effect of changes in rates of exchange and inflation. These revised estimates are usually based on December rates and are submitted towards the close of the consideration of the proposed programme budget by the Fifth Committee.

50. Over the years the question of the treatment of the effects of currency fluctuation and inflation on the level of the budget has been of considerable concern both to the Advisory Committee and the General Assembly. Indeed, in 1973 the Advisory Committee submitted a report to the General Assembly at its

twenty-eighth session on the effects of continuing currency instability on the budgets of organizations in the United Nations system. 4/ This report took into account a report on the same subject by ACC. The report of ACC was annexed to the Advisory Committee's report. In 1974, in connection with the programme budget for the biennium 1974-1975, a report of the Working Group on Currency Instability (A/9773) was submitted to the Assembly at its twenty-ninth session. From 1975 to 1985 the effect of continuing currency instability on the budgets of the organizations in the United Nations system regularly appeared as an item on the agenda of the Assembly.

51. In annex I, paragraph 10, to General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, it is indicated that "a comprehensive solution to the problem of all additional expenditures, including those deriving from inflation and currency fluctuations, is also necessary. It is desirable to accommodate these expenditures, within the overall level of the budget, either as a reserve or as a separate part of the contingency fund ...". Subsequently, the Advisory Committee issued a report to the Assembly at its forty-third session, which contained a detailed discussion on dealing with the effects of inflation and currency fluctuation (A/43/929, paras. 18-31). During the same session of the Assembly, the Advisory Committee issued a report on administrative and budgetary coordination, which contained a summary of the practices of the specialized agencies and IAEA (A/43/760). Options to deal with the effects of currency fluctuation and inflation include absorption (involving priority reordering, postponement of activities and productivity measures), the use of supplementary estimates and the establishment of special accounts and reserves. The Advisory Committee points out that this is a complex subject; whatever is contemplated in future should take into account the extensive work in this area which has been done in the past.

PROPOSED ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES IN 1996-1997

52. The distribution of the expenditure estimates for the biennium 1996-1997 by main field of activity is indicated below:

PROPOSED ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES IN 1996-1997

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Part		Revised appropriation 1994-1995		Proposed programme budget 1996-1997	
		Amount	Percentage	Amount	Percentage
I.	Overall policy-making direction and coordination	37 218.5	1.4	39 885.6	1.5
II.	Political affairs	198 338.1	7.6	154 202.2	5.7
III.	International justice and law	50 748.5	1.9	52 682.3	2.0
IV.	International cooperation for development	301 046.1	11.5	305 783.9	11.4
V.	Regional cooperation for development	339 322.5	13.0	376 368.7	14.0
VI.	Human rights and humanitarian affairs	132 665.9	5.1	145 686.8	5.4
VII.	Public information	131 442.6	5.0	137 911.7	5.1
VIII.	Common support services	903 028.7	34.6	952 683.5	35.5
IX.	Jointly financed administrative activities and special expenses	60 016.3	2.3	68 347.0	2.5
X.	Office of Internal Oversight Services	12 027.7	0.5	15 821.8	0.6
XI.	Capital expenditures	83 845.4	3.2	68 315.1	2.5
XII.	Staff assessment	357 798.1	13.7	368 603.2	13.7
XIII.	International Seabed Authority	776.0	0.2	776.0	0.1
	Total	2 608 274.4	100.0	2 687 067.8	100.0

PERSONNEL MATTERS

53. The staffing resources available for carrying out the work programme of the Organization include established posts, temporary posts, temporary assistance, consultants and ad hoc expert groups; these resources are financed from the regular budget and from extrabudgetary funds.

54. As shown in table 5 of the introduction to the proposed programme budget, 2/ the Secretary-General estimates posts and other staff costs (excluding staff assessment), at $1,729,801,200 under the expenditure sections for 1996-1997. If one adds to that the estimate of $31,055,200 (net of staff assessment) for income section 3, the total is $1,760,856,400.

55. In table 9 of the introduction to the proposed programme budget, 2/ the Secretary-General estimates posts and other staff costs of extrabudgetary staff at approximately $1,049,515,500, including staff financed from the support account for peace-keeping operations. The personnel costs by fund type is not shown. It can thus be said that personnel costs to be financed from the regular budget and extrabudgetary resources would amount to an estimate of $2,810,371,900 in 1996-1997.

56. The Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 1 January 1995, there were no "supernumeraries", as the term relates to staff who were on board during the bienniums 1990-1991 and 1992-1993 without posts after the posts which they had encumbered were abolished in accordance with the provisions of section I, paragraph 1 (b) of General Assembly resolution 41/213. As used above, the term supernumeraries does not relate to staff who may be temporarily charged to vacant posts while they are waiting assignment to a permanent post. In this connection, the Advisory Committee points out that the proper placement of staff is the responsibility of the Administration.

57. In a number of cases, the Advisory Committee has found what appears to be a high proportion of support staff in relation to Professional staff, especially in view of the technological innovations that have been and are being introduced. The Advisory Committee first drew attention to this in paragraph 59 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for 1994-1995. 3/ The Advisory Committee notes that the ratios between Professional and other categories of staff remain the same for 1996-1997 compared with 1994-1995. The Advisory Committee once again requests the Secretary-General to review this matter so as to ensure appropriate ratios of the categories of staff, taking into account enhanced productivity derived from technological innovations. The Committee intends to follow up on this in detail in the next proposed programme budget.

Regular budget established and temporary posts

58. Under the expenditure sections and income section 3 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, the Secretary-General requests a total of 10,144 posts. In the following table, the request for 1996-1997 is compared with the approved staffing table for 1994-1995:

Regular budget established and temporary posts

	Professional category and above			General Service and other categories			Total		
	1996-1997	1994-1995	Increase (decrease)	1996-1997	1994-1995	Increase (decrease)	1996-1997	1994-1995	Increase (decrease)
Established posts	3 974	3 927	47	6 140	6 275	(135)	10 114	10 202	(88)
Temporary posts	12	34	(22)	18	39	(21)	30	73	(43)
Total	3 986	3 961	25	6 158	6 314	(156)	10 144	10 275	(131)

59. As can be seen from table 6 of the introduction to the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997, 2/ the net decrease of 131 posts is the result of proposals for:

New posts	61
Conversion from general temporary assistance	5
Transfers from the support account	26
Abolitions	92
	(223)
	(131)

Seen another way, with reference to paragraph 11 of the introduction to the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997, as well as table 6, the 61 Professional posts proposed to be added, consist of 54 new posts, 5 conversions from general temporary assistance and 2 upward reclassifications from the General Service category. The five General Service and related category posts to be added consist of seven new posts partially offset by the two posts proposed to be reclassified to the Professional category. The specific recommendations of the Advisory Committee on the Secretary-General's proposals are contained in chapter II below.

60. The Advisory Committee requested information on regular budget redeployments of posts. Of the 185 redeployments indicated in the proposed programme budget, 174 are within the same department. A total of 11 are from one Department to another as follows:

REDEPLOYMENTS IN THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1996-1997

Number of posts	Level	Section		Department/office	
		From	To	From	To
1	O.L.	25	1	Department of Public Information	Executive Office of the Secretary-General
1	D-1	2	3	Department of Political Affairs	Department of Peace-keeping Operations
1	P-5	32	26C	Office of Internal Oversight Services	Office of Human Resources Management
1	P.L.	32	26C	Office of Internal Oversight Services	Office of Human Resources Management
1	P.L.	32	26C	Office of Internal Oversight Services	Office of Human Resources Management
1	P-4	26D	26E	Office of Conference and Support Services/Conference Services	Office of Conference and Support Services/Support Services
1	D-1	26E	26D	Office of Conference and Support Services/Support Services	Office of Conference and Support Services/Conference Services
1	P-5	26E	26D	Office of Conference and Support Services/Support Services	Office of Conference and Support Services/Conference Services
1	O.L.	26E	26D	Office of Conference and Support Services/Support Services	Office of Conference and Support Services/Conference Services
1	O.L.	26E	26D	Office of Conference and Support Services/Support Services	Office of Conference and Support Services/Conference Services
1	P-4	7A	7B	Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (Vienna)	Africa

As indicated in a number of places in chapter II below, there is lack of information to describe these redeployments, their rationale and their effects on the programme of work in both the sending and receiving units. Over the years, the Advisory Committee has insisted that full programmatic justification should be provided for all redeployments. The Committee requests that this information be included in the next proposed programme budget.

61. The following table, supplied to the Advisory Committee, shows proposed reclassifications in the Professional and higher categories (including income section 3) as follows:

A. Proposed programme budget 1996-1997: reclassification and general temporary assistance

	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2/1	Sub total	Prin-ci-pal level	Other level	Local level	Secur-ity ser-vice	Field ser-vice	Manual worker	Sub-total	Total
1 ESTABLISHED POSTS - DETAIL: SECTIONS OF EXPENDITURE															
Law of the Sea and Ocean Affairs	(1)	1		1	(1)	0								0	0
Global development and policy analysis: macroeconomics - Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis		(1)	1	(1)	2	(1)	0							0	0
Global development and policy analysis: microeconomics - Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis			1	(1)			0							0	0
Crime control: crime prevention and criminal justice	1	(1)					0							0	0
ESCAP - programme support						1	1			(1)				(1)	0
ESCWA - programme support						1	1			(1)				(1)	0
Centre for Human Rights: executive direction and management	(1)	1					0	1	(1)					0	0
Office of Human Resources Management: executive direction and management		(1)	1				0							0	0
Support Services: procurement and transportation	1	(1)					0							0	0
Conference services, New York: translation					5	(5)	0							0	0
Conference services, Geneva: translation					6	(6)	0							0	0
Subtotal	1	(4)	4	(2)	14	(11)	2	1	(1)	(2)	0	0	0	(2)	0

	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2/1	Sub total	Prin-ci-pal level	Other level	Local level	Secur-ity ser-vice	Field ser-vice	Manual worker	Sub-total	Total
INCOME SECTION 3 United Nations Postal Administration, New York					1	(1)	0							0	0
United Nations Postal Administration, Vienna				1	(1)		0							0	0
Net total	0	0	0	1	0	(1)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand total	1	(4)	4	(1)	14	(12)	2	1	(1)	(2)	0	0	0	(2)	0

B. Proposed programme budget 1996-1997: reclassification and general temporary assistance

	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2/1	Sub-total	Prin-ci-pal level	Other level	Local level	Secur-ity ser-vice	Field ser-vice	Manual worker	Sub total	Total
1 ESTABLISHED POSTS - SUMMARY: SECTIONS OF EXPENDITURE															
Upward classification															
Language services					11		11							0	11
Other	2		1		2	2	7	1						1	8
Downward reclassification		1	3		1		5							0	5
Subtotal	2	1	4	0	14	2	23	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	24
INCOME SECTION 3				1	1		2							0	2
Total	2	1	4	1	15	2	25	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	26

62. The percentage distribution of established posts by grade in the Professional and higher categories proposed by the Secretary-General for 1996-1997 is compared with the initial 1994-1995 appropriation as follows:

Professional and higher categories	1996-1997	1994-1995
USG/ASG	0.9	0.9
D-2	2.1	2.1
D-1	6.9	7.1
P-5	18.1	17.7
P-4	29.9	29.9
P-3	29.2	28.4
P-2/1	12.9	13.9
	100.0	100.0

The Advisory Committee has indicated its comments and recommendations on the Secretary-General's proposals on procedures and norms for the creation, suppression, reclassification and redeployment of posts (A/49/339 and Corr.1) in paragraphs 98-104 below.

63. As in the biennium 1994-1995, continuing Professional posts have been costed at 94 per cent in recognition of a projected overall vacancy factor of 6 per cent. The Advisory Committee inquired into the current vacancy situation and was informed that, as at March 1995, it stood at 5.8 per cent, with an average of 6.4 per cent for 1994-1995. General Service posts have been costed with a continuing vacancy factor of 0.8 per cent; current vacancy trends were 1.4 per cent as at March 1995, with an average of 1.6 per cent for 1994-1995. In view of the proposed net decrease of 156 General Service posts for 1996-1997, the Advisory Committee is not recommending any increase in the vacancy factor for General Service posts.

64. The Advisory Committee was informed that new posts have been costed on a 24-month basis (at 50 per cent for Professionals and 65 per cent for General Service), in line with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee to reinstitute the delayed recruitment factors for both Professional and General Service posts in the context of its review of the 1994-1995 proposed programme budget.

Extrabudgetary posts

65. The numbers and grades of posts anticipated during 1996-1997 for extrabudgetary support services are provided in table 10 of the introduction to the proposed programme budget. 2/ The Advisory Committee notes from this table that it is estimated that extrabudgetary resources in 1996-1997 will finance a total of nearly 8,000 extrabudgetary posts. The Advisory Committee was informed that this total includes posts for support services and substantive activities (including posts financed from operational funds posted at established United Nations offices, and posts financed from the support account for peace-keeping

operations, but excluding local staff of UNRWA). The following table provides a breakdown of these posts by grade and compares the estimated total for 1996-1997 with the total number of those posts in 1994-1995. The figures have been corrected from what was initially provided to the Advisory Committee in the advance version of the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997.

EXTRABUDGETARY POSTS

Grade	1996-1997					
	Support services	Substantive activities	Operational activities	Total	1994-1995	Change
Professional and above						
ASG	-	2	-	2	2	0
D-2	4	12	28	44	45	(1)
D-1	31	28	80	139	149	(10)
P-5	70	73	225	368	387	(19)
P-4	177	73	476	726	650	76
P-3	119	64	754	937	863	74
P-2/1	29	42	291	362	359	3
Subtotal	430	294	1 854	2 578	2 455	123
General Service						
Principal level	31	12	42	85	86	(1)
Other levels a/	790	297	4 043	5 130	4 394	736
Subtotal	821	309	4 085	5 215	4 480	735
Total	1 251	603	5 939	7 793	6 935	858

a/ Including Security Service, Trades and Crafts, Field Service and Local Level.

66. As has been noted above, there have been substantial changes in income from extrabudgetary resources; however, the relation of these resources to the financing of temporary posts is not indicated in the budget document. As the Committee has pointed out in the past, there is need to enhance transparency in the use of extrabudgetary resources, including backstopping activities. The Committee requests the Secretary-General to address this matter in the context of his budget proposals for 1998-1999.

67. In accordance with the terms of section II, paragraph 2, of General Assembly resolution 35/217 of 17 December 1980, the Advisory Committee, since submitting its first report on the 1994-1995 proposed programme budget, has concurred with the following requests by the Secretary-General concerning extrabudgetary posts at the D-1 level and above:

(a) The continuation of one Assistant Secretary-General, one D-2 and one D-1 post for the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for 1994;

(b) The continuation of one D-2 and one D-1 post for the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan for 1995;

(c) The continuation of one D-2 and one D-1 post for the United Nations Inter-Agency Humanitarian Programme in Iraq from 1 January 1994 onwards;

(d) The establishment of one D-2 and one D-1 post for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994, from 1 January to 31 March 1995.

Temporary assistance and consultants

68. As can be seen from table 5 of the introduction to the proposed programme budget, 2/ the expenditure sections of the proposed programme budget include a total of $120.9 million under other staff costs. The Advisory Committee was informed that this total includes $63.3 million for general temporary assistance. As a rule, the greatest use of general temporary assistance is for additional staff during peak workload periods; general temporary assistance is also used for the replacement of staff on prolonged sick leave or maternity leave. In this connection, the Advisory Committee noted the instances where general temporary assistance funds were being used to finance posts on a continuing basis, for example:

Proposed programme budget 1996-1997, reclassification and general temporary assistance

	D-2	D-1	P-5	P-4	P-3	P-2/1	Sub-total	Principal level	Other level	Local level	Security service	Field service	Manual worker	Sub-total	Total
GENERAL TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE POSTS															
Habitat II a/		1	1		1		3			b/				0	3
Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories c/				3	1		4		3	14	4	4		25	29
United Nations Office at Nairobi							0				12			12	12
Total	0	1	1	3	2	0	7	0	3	14	16	4	0	37	44

a/ Eight work-months each Professional level post.

b/ Thirty work-months provided at the Local Level

c/ Security Service staff are classified Local Level

In addition, there may be other instances where this practice is de facto being followed (see discussion under section 26F below). The Advisory Committee requests the Secretary-General to reconsider this practice and to follow the normal procedure for the establishment of posts to carry out the functions concerned. In a related matter, the Advisory Committee in its most recent report on the support account for peace-keeping operations, stated that it "would seek to ensure *inter alia* that the use of general temporary assistance is consistent with the purposes for which it was intended" (A/49/904, para. 22 (d)).

69. The Advisory Committee was informed that the overall estimate for temporary assistance for meetings was $62.9 million. These funds are requested for short-term interpreters, translators, typists and other conference-servicing staff. The Advisory Committee has commented in chapter II, section 26E below, on the need to ensure the most cost-effective use of temporary assistance for meetings.

70. As can be seen from table 5 of the introduction to the proposed programme budget, 2/ the total request for consultants and expert groups is $15.7 million for 1996-1997. The Advisory Committee was informed that, of that total, $11.7 million related to consultants. The Committee stresses that expenditure under this object should be limited to the contracting for expertise not currently available in the Secretariat.

OTHER MATTERS

Extent of involvement of specialized bodies in the planning and programming process

71. In section II, paragraph 3, of its resolution 41/213, the General Assembly resolved to achieve improvement in the consultative process for the formulation of the medium-term plan through, inter alia, full implementation of the Regulations Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation pertaining to the medium-term plan, as contained in the annex to its resolution 37/234 of 21 December 1982, and of the related Rules.

72. As stated by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 81 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989, 5/ such implementation calls for greater involvement of the specialized bodies in the planning and programming process; the work of these bodies in this area affects the programme of activities that forms the basis of the medium-term plan and in turn the programme budget. In this connection, the Advisory Committee was provided with the following list of specialized bodies and the period during which these bodies reviewed their programmes of work for 1996-1997:

Budget sections for which programme of work for 1996-1997 have been reviewed by specialized bodies

Section	Programme	Reviewing body	Time of review
7A	Advancement of women	Commission on the Status of Women	March-April 1995
7A	Social development	Commission on Social Development	April 1995
8	Population	Commission on Population and Development	February-March 1995
8	Statistics	Statistical Commission	February-March 1995
10	UNCTAD	Working Party and Trade and Development Board	June 1995
11	UNEP	UNEP Governing Council	May 1995
12	UNCHS	Commission on Human Settlements	April 1995
13	Crime control	Commission on Crime Prevention and Control	June 1995
15	ECA	ECA Conference of Ministers	April 1995
16	ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	April 1995
17	ECE	Economic Commission for Europe	April 1995
19	ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	May 1995

As is clear from the above, there are numerous programmes that have not been reviewed (see discussion under chap. II, sect. 7A below, for example). The Advisory Committee understands that the calendar of conferences may make these reviews difficult to carry out in some cases; in those situations alternate means, such as intersessional working groups, could be employed. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, even where the reviews have been carried out, the reports of the bodies concerned do not reveal the extent to which the programme of work in the proposed programme budget has been examined in detail. The Advisory Committee recommends that the results of future reviews by specialized bodies be transmitted to it by the Secretary-General in time to be taken into account by the Advisory Committee when it examines the proposed programme budget.

Publications

73. A significant level of resources is devoted to publications as an activity of the United Nations (including staff, consultants and printing). Publications policy has been a matter of concern to the Advisory Committee for many years. For example, in 1976, the Advisory Committee, in its report (DP/206 and Corr.1) on the UNDP budget estimates for 1977 recommended:

> "If it is considered essential to issue a publication, further thought could be given to the frequency of its issue, its size, the number of copies to be printed and the relative costs of different methods of printing and production."

74. In its first report on the proposed programme budget for 1986-1987, 6/ the Advisory Committee trusted that

> "... the reviews of recurrent publications called for in General Assembly resolution 38/32 E will in fact be carried out and/or completed, and that in so doing strict attention will be paid to the criteria set forth in paragraph 17 of that resolution. The Advisory Committee also looks forward to innovative measures, especially with regard to sales publications, aimed at ensuring that each publication will enjoy the fullest possible readership and will be fully responsive to the special needs of that readership."

75. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, the concerns raised years ago are still valid today. In its detailed comments in chapter II below, the Advisory Committee makes a number of specific observations and recommendations with regard to the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (sect. 7A), the regional economic commissions (sects. 15-19), UNCTAD/ITC (sects. 10A and B), human rights (sect. 21) and the Department of Public Information (sect. 25) and income section 3. With regard to section 25, the Advisory Committee has also commented upon the report of the Secretary-General on publications policy of the United Nations (A/C.5/48/10) in the context of its discussion of that section.

76. Intergovernmental legislative bodies should be urged to consider in detail the publication programme under their jurisdiction when these bodies review the actual programme of work in the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget. Bearing in mind that the present budgetary process provides that only the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly is charged with the responsibility for considering the programme budget of the Organization, the Secretariat should indicate to the relevant intergovernmental bodies the number, type, cost and audience of each publication, the date intended for publication, the date when

each publication was first requested, who requested such publication, when it was last reviewed and by whom. In the future, funding for publications should be subject to the procedure outlined in this paragraph.

77. The objective should be to streamline considerably the current publications programme by elimination of duplicative publications, discontinuing publications which are considered no longer relevant to the implementation of approved mandates, or merging publications, thus providing publications at less cost and releasing resources for other activities of the United Nations. Streamlining should address such practices as having reports and publications appear in different formats. For example, the Secretary-General's report on the work of the Organization is issued in three formats: (a) in an advance format; (b) as a supplement; and (c) as a glossy publication. Resolutions of the General Assembly are issued first in draft form in reports submitted by Main Committees and then as General Assembly documents; the resolutions are then issued by the Department of Public Information as an unofficial consolidated publication for the press; and finally they are issued in an official consolidated printed format. Many publications appear as parliamentary reports and are then reissued as sales publications.

78. The question of the relative costs and need for external versus internal printing is also an important aspect of publications policy. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls information it provided in its first report on the proposed programme budget for 1988-1989: 5/

> "74. ... The Committee was informed that external printing and binding was resorted to in the main when the bulk of a publication exceeded 500 pages, or when colour printing of covers or specific typesetting of texts was required. Such features are beyond the present in-house printing capability. The printing of publications can and does involve a mix of internal and external printing. Thus, the text of a publication may be printed internally, but its cover printed externally. In this regard, the Committee points out that the Secretariat's choices of design for covers, typesetting and conciseness of the document have impact on the printing cost of a publication. Furthermore, in view of the continuing programme of modernizing the printing plants at both Headquarters and Geneva and the consequential improvement of their production capabilities, the Committee believes that greater efforts should be made to print publications in-house.
>
> "75. With regard to internal printing requirements, the Advisory Committee points out that it has recommended, for approval by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General's 1988-1989 proposals to modernize the printing plants at Headquarters and Geneva. In this connection, the Committee notes that according to representatives of the Secretary-General, acquisition of new presses and ancillary printing equipment would not only enhance existing internal production capacity but also would reduce wastage of paper and printing supplies."

79. The Advisory Committee was informed that the proposed level of resources required for external printing for 1996-1997 amounts to $6,165,800, reflecting a reduction of $2,015,200 (24.6 per cent) over the 1994-1995 appropriation. Of the total, $3,651,500 (representing a reduction of $1,746,300, or 32.3 per cent) would provide for external printing requirements at Headquarters, while $2,514,300 (representing a reduction of $268,900, or 9.7 per cent) relates to provision for external printing in other duty stations.

80. According to information received by the Advisory Committee, the principal factor contributing to this reduction is the increasing use of desk-top publishing and greater reliance on internal printing facilities, especially at Headquarters and Geneva, as the result of enhancement of printing facilities, including the capacity to print covers in colour. At other duty stations, reliance continues to be placed on outside printing facilities.

81. In paragraph 73 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1988-1989, 5/ the Advisory Committee stated the need for a methodology that would permit a breakdown of the costs of publications by external printing, internal printing and other apportioned costs, including research, writing and editing. The Advisory Committee further stated that a knowledge of the full cost of each recurrent publication would be an important element in assessing the value of such publications.

82. In its first report on the proposed programme budget for 1990-1991, 7/ the Advisory Committee stated that it was informed that such a methodology had not yet been developed and that major difficulties remained for the costing of the writing of documents and publications. The Advisory Committee recommended that the question be further studied, with a view to resolving those difficulties in time for the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. Further to a request for developments in that regard, the Advisory Committee was informed that in response to General Assembly resolution 47/73 B of 14 December 1992, the Department of Public Information had attempted to estimate the full cost of authoring and producing its publications. With the assistance of the then Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance, the Department of Public Information was able to arrive at estimates of some of the costs involved. These were reported to the General Assembly in document A/AC.198/1993/5 of 3 May 1993. The cost estimates included in that document were restricted solely to production costs incurred by the Department of Public Information and the estimated cost of staff of the Department in the preparation of the publications covered. The production costs included external printing, contractual services or temporary staff. Not included in those estimates were the costs of staff time in other departments, including language services, and other costs and services of other departments, such as internal reproduction. Thus, according to information received by the Advisory Committee, while efforts have been made in this direction, considerable methodological problems remain unsolved. These include the absence of a practical, accurate and cost-effective mechanism for capturing the time actually devoted to specific publications by staff engaged in related research and drafting. The Advisory Committee urges continued efforts in that regard.

83. The Advisory Committee recommends that JIU be requested to conduct a comprehensive survey of the role publications play in implementing mandates of intergovernmental bodies and the extent to which recurrent publications could be made more cost-effective in this regard.

Hospitality for official functions

84. As noted above, estimates for hospitality have been grouped together with other unrelated expenses under the object of expenditure "general operating expenses". The Advisory Committee has recommended that in future these expenditures, which are different from representation allowances paid to senior officials, be separately identified. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was informed that hospitality accounts for an estimate of $1,059,300 for 1996-1997, compared with $1,031,700 for 1994-1995. As was noted in connection with the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993, 8/ the total is spread throughout the

budget in widely varying amounts and although individual amounts are often quite small, the aggregate, as can be seen above, is significant. As in 1991, the Advisory Committee found it difficult to analyse these requests as it was unable to ascertain a general rationale or policy guiding the request for such funds, including eligibility for their payment. Although the Advisory Committee is not recommending any reduction in this object of expenditure, it trusts that steps will be taken prior to the preparation of the proposed programme budget for 1998-1999 to set criteria for hospitality requests and the usage of funds.

Honoraria

85. With respect to perceived anomalies in the present practice of paying honoraria, the Advisory Committee recalls its observations in paragraph 8 of its fortieth report on the proposed programme budget for 1978-1979 9/ that:

> "In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, since it was the Assembly which established the basic principle with regard to the payment of honoraria, and since it was the Assembly which, in each case, decided upon the exceptions, it must be for the Assembly alone to decide whether these exceptions should be maintained, increased or abolished."

86. For a number of years, the Advisory Committee has been noting the intention for the Secretary-General to conduct a comprehensive review of honoraria payable to members of organs and subsidiary organs of the United Nations. The Advisory Committee drew attention to this in 1991 in its ninth report on the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993. 10/ In its eleventh report on the programme budget for 1992-1993, submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, 11/ the Advisory Committee did not object to a proposal to increase the rates of honoraria set by General Assembly resolution 35/218 of 17 December 1980, but stated that

> "7. ... there is little evidence in the report [A/C.5/47/45] to suggest that a comprehensive review regarding such questions as to whether there might be other bodies within the system eligible for payment of honoraria, or the implications of introducing uniformity into the conditions for the payment of honoraria, have been dealt with."

The following table summarizes the honoraria which are currently payable as provided for in the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997. Honoraria is paid in addition to payment of subsistence allowance where applicable.

HONORARIA

(United States dollars)

Committee	Annual honoraria			Legislative mandate
	Chairman	Vice-Chairman	Members	Resolution
International Law Commission a/	5 000	-	3 000	35/218
United Nations Administrative Tribunal	5 000	-	3 000	35/218
International Narcotics Control Board	5 000	4 000	3 000	35/218
Human Rights Committee	5 000	-	3 000	35/218
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	5 000	-	3 000	36/420 A/C.5/36/90
Committee on the Rights of the Child	5 000	-	3 000	44/201

a/ An additional amount of $2,500 is payable to members of the International Law Commission, when acting as special rapporteurs, conditional upon the preparation of specific reports on studies between sessions of the Commission.

The concerns expressed above are still valid and the Advisory Committee requests the Secretary-General to respond to them at the earliest opportunity.

Performance Appraisal System

87. The Performance Appraisal System was first described in the Secretary-General's report on a strategy for the management of the human resources of the Organization (A/C.5/49/5, paras. 79-84). In section I, paragraph 3, of its resolution 49/222 A, the General Assembly approved the proposals of the Secretary-General for implementation of the Performance Appraisal System, and requested him to make every effort to implement them from within existing overall resources, if necessary concentrating on the P-4 level and above world wide in 1995, and to ensure that from 1 April 1996 the system was implemented at all levels. The Advisory Committee points out, however, that what was before the General Assembly was little more than a general description of objectives.

88. Although recognizing the prerogative of the Secretary-General to administer the staff, the Advisory Committee wishes to draw attention to what is contained in the paragraphs below.

89. The Advisory Committee has requested and received information on how it is planned to implement those objectives. Among the materials received by the Advisory Committee was a 59-page document issued in March 1995 entitled "Performance Appraisal System Guidelines and Reference Material", together with a 55-page "Training Guide" issued at the same time.

90. The Advisory Committee understands that these materials were issued in conjunction with a series of training courses aimed at familiarizing more than 12,000 staff with the new system by August 1996. The courses are conducted by some 16 consultants who are paid at the rate of $600 per day. In addition,

there is a system design consultant who is paid at the rate of $800 per day. The Advisory Committee was informed that as of 30 June 1995, it was estimated that $723,000 would be spent for 1995, including $342,000 for trainers' fees, $92,000 for their travel, $129,000 for the design consultant, $150,000 for support staff and $10,000 for materials. For the period up to 31 August 1996, requirements are estimated at $873,000, including $412,000 for trainers and $106,000 for their travel, $155,000 for general temporary assistance equivalent to one P-3 post and one General Service post for one year in the Training Service, $95,000 for "work-planning/coaching interviews training", $80,000 for the production of a "multimedia self-study package" and $25,000 for a computerized monitoring system for the initial period of training.

91. In addition, other activities are planned in conjunction with the Performance Appraisal System training. For example, in 1995 under-secretaries-general, assistant secretaries-general and directors underwent management seminars mainly focusing on strategic planning, leadership and management of change, accountability and responsibility. In 1996-1997, senior middle-level managers will be trained in "people-human resources management skills"; the related cost of this activity for 1996-1997 is currently estimated at $1.2 million.

92. An indication of the complexity of the new system can be found in the following overview of steps for completing the Performance Appraisal System taken from the Performance Appraisal System Guidelines and Reference Material document:

OVERVIEW OF STEPS FOR COMPLETING THE PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL SYSTEM

Example of a performance year that begins on 1 April and ends on 31 March.

WHEN	PAS FORM	ACTION
Feb/Mar	Section II	Manager/supervisor initiates PAS process: explains work unit goals, delegates specific goals, asks staff to draft individual work plan.
		Manager/supervisor and staff member meet to discuss individual work plan.
		Manager/supervisor and staff members identify performance dimensions.
	Section II	Manager/supervisor and staff member identify job-related development plans.
By 1 April	Section I	Staff member documents. Both sign and date.
Apr-Sept		Informal, ongoing discussions between manager/ supervisor and staff member to monitor and adjust the plan, evaluate progress, give recognition, improve performance.
Sept/Oct	Section II-E	Mid-year review. Staff member and manager/ supervisor discuss performance. Formal plan adjustments and progress or problems are noted and additional improvements or corrective actions established.
	Section III	Both review actions in the job-related development section and indicate impact of those actions.

WHEN	PAS FORM	ACTION
By 31 Oct	Section I	Manager/supervisor and staff member document. Both sign and date.
Oct-Mar		Manager/supervisor and staff member hold discussions to monitor and adjust the plan, evaluate progress, give recognition, improve performance.
Feb/Mar	Section II-G	Year-end appraisal. Staff member and manager/supervisor prepare and hold final review meeting to appraise performance against work plan and dimensions. Staff member indicates his/her comments and preliminary evaluation for each goal in preparation for the year-end meeting.
	Section II-H	After full discussion, manager/supervisor enters comments and rating for each goal.
	Section III	Both review job-related development actions and indicate their status and impact.
	Section IV	Staff member and manager/supervisor comment on any relevant factors not discussed previously on the form.
	Section V and section I	Manager/supervisor and staff member discuss the overall rating of the staff member's performance. The manager/supervisor completes the rating. Both add comments if desired and both sign and date form.
	Section VI, VII	Staff member reviews how well the manager/supervisor carried out the requirements of the PAS. Supervisor comments on staff member actions in meeting his/her part of the PAS. Supervisor discusses the evaluation with his/her manager/supervisor.
By 31 March		Manager/supervisor reviews PAS, including section VI, staff member's review, and section VII with his/her manager, who will forward all completed PAS forms to the management review committee for review.
Mar		Management review committee reviews appraisals. It confirms final ratings or makes adjustments if deemed necessary. Communicates final decisions to affected managers/supervisors for staff member review. After the staff member signs the completed PAS form it is sent to the executive/administrative officer for administrative processing.

Note: In preparing work plans, all managers/supervisors are to establish specific supervisory goals (p. 15, para. 25 of Guidelines) and to include in those goals gender and cross-cultural responsiveness as a performance dimension (p. 37, para. 79, and p. 47).

Despite revision being made to the Performance Appraisal System, it was confirmed to the Advisory Committee, in mid-June 1995, that the above was still basically valid, although the number of sections in a new Performance Appraisal System form would likely be reduced.

93. On 26 May 1995, an information circular (ST/IC/1995/32) was issued to the staff, describing modifications to the Performance Appraisal System. As indicated in paragraph 3 of that circular, the changes "do not affect the substance of the performance appraisal system approach, but rather aim to simplify it, reduce the length of the reporting form and reflect other suggestions made, in particular by staff who have undergone training ...".

94. The Advisory Committee was informed that, on average, it is expected that eight hours will be spent each year on each staff member for completion of the Performance Appraisal System, as follows:

ESTIMATED TIME INVESTMENT FOR COMPLETION OF THE
PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL SYSTEM

(one year period for each staff member)

PAS phase a/	Hours invested by supervisor	Hours invested by staff member
Initiation phase	1	2
Explanation of work unit goals Drafting of plan by staff member Formal and informal meetings		
Mid-year review phase	1	1
Discussion of performance Monitor and adjustment Informal meetings		
Year-end appraisal phase	2	1
Discussion of performance Completion of rating Discussion of rating Mutual evaluation		

a/ Figures do not include the process of goal setting at the level of department and office as this task is inextricably related to all other planning functions, including the management plan, programme and budget performance and the medium-term plan.

Though there will be some organizational units whereby the nature of the work it will be possible to cluster the activities associated with the Performance Appraisal System and thus spend less time on each staff member, in other units, Performance Appraisal System deliberations will involve a more extensive use of time. There will also be a management review phase, including action by a management review committee, as well as provision for rebuttal of performance ratings. A standing panel will be comprised of one member nominated by the head of the department, one member nominated by the staff and a chairperson appointed in consultation with the staff. Decisions of this panel are supposed to be final and binding but the Advisory Committee understands that, under certain circumstances, the consequences of these decisions may, in fact, be appealable.

95. As can be seen in the paragraphs above, the introduction of the Performance Appraisal System has involved expenditures, both direct and indirect, which are not inconsequential. The Advisory Committee understands that efforts are under way to streamline the Performance Appraisal System compared with what was originally envisaged. The Advisory Committee strongly urges continued strenuous efforts to refine the Performance Appraisal System so as to minimize the administrative and bureaucratic burden it would likely cause in its original form.

Reimbursable loans

96. The Advisory Committee is aware of the increasing practice to obtain staff, both at the United Nations and its programmes, through reimbursable loan. Information made available to the Advisory Committee suggests that in some cases the terms of these arrangements, in so far as they provide for a total level of remuneration in excess of what is provided through the standard pay scales for the United Nations common system, may appear to violate the requirements of Article 100 of the Charter and of staff regulation 1.6, although the Advisory Committee has been assured that all legal requirements have been observed. The Advisory Committee requests the Secretary-General to ensure that staff regulation 1.6 is interpreted strictly and applied without exception so as to avoid even the appearance of improper practice. It is also necessary to ensure full application of Article 100 of the Charter and to disclose fully all relevant information to the General Assembly.

Early separation programme

97. The Advisory Committee sought information on the early separation programme which is being implemented pursuant to section I, paragraph 8, of General Assembly resolution 49/222 A. The Advisory Committee was informed that it was anticipated that the programme would cost approximately $15 million per year for each of three years starting in 1995. The Advisory Committee understands that the programme has been announced in an administrative instruction issued to the staff (ST/AI/403) and that the current programme is for 1995 only. The Advisory Committee was informed that the cost estimate of $15 million has not been separately budgeted for but will be funded from within the existing provision for common staff costs. Pursuant to resolution 49/222 A, the Secretary-General is to report on the initial phase during the fiftieth session of the Assembly and, in that context, the Advisory Committee understands he will make such proposals as he deems necessary for 1996-1997. The Advisory Committee trusts that these proposals will be based on a fully articulated plan linked with measures to enhance the performance of the Organization rather than merely to reduce costs. Such cost-cutting measures have in the past sometimes resulted in cost increases rather than reductions as needed staff in priority areas retired only to be requested back or be replaced thereafter. The Secretary-General should also address problems of re-absorbing staff from large field missions in the context of the proposals for longer-term management of separation and retention referred to in section I, paragraph 8, of resolution 49/222 A. In other words, reduction in staff should be targeted in such a way as to avoid losing the best qualified staff, especially in high priority areas.

Procedures and norms for the creation, suppression, reclassification, conversion and redeployment of posts

98. In considering the report of the Secretary-General on this subject (A/49/339 and Corr.1), the Advisory Committee was aware of the review just completed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination, which took note of the Secretary-General's report and recommended that it be considered further by the relevant Main Committee of the General Assembly. 12/

99. The background to the question is given in paragraphs 1 to 5 of document A/49/339. Criteria for the creation, suppression and redeployment of posts is provided in paragraphs 11 to 13 of the report. As indicated in paragraph 10: "A weakness in the current procedures is the absence of a systematic review, particularly in terms of possible re-orientation of work programmes and setting priorities, by programme managers prior to requesting additional post requirements."

100. The Advisory Committee endorses the proposed criteria and trusts that they will be systematically applied, as indicated by the Secretary-General.

101. Classification of posts is discussed in paragraphs 16 to 31 of the Secretary-General's report. Much of what is contained in these paragraphs constitute proposals to implement resolution 48/228 C of 29 July 1994, in which the General Assembly, inter alia, endorsed the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, contained in paragraph 8 of its twelfth report on the programme budget for 1994-1995. 13/ In that paragraph, the Advisory Committee had recommended granting to the Secretary-General the authority to reclassify posts up to the P-5 level, while ensuring that the relationship between the overall numbers for each grade level was maintained and that the existing appropriations were not exceeded. The Advisory Committee had also sought to ensure that adequate controls by the Secretariat and monitoring by the Assembly were in place, including procedures for providing information to the Advisory Committee and the Assembly on action taken by the Secretary-General under his authority. The Advisory Committee recommended that such a new system as might be proposed by the Secretary-General could, initially, be implemented for a trial period of two bienniums.

102. Table 2 of the Secretary-General's report (A/49/339) provides a grade distribution of established and temporary Professional and higher-level posts approved in the context of initial appropriations under the regular budget of the United Nations. The Advisory Committee notes that the 1994-1995 distribution shows some 3 per cent of posts at the D-2 level and above, down from 3.6 per cent in 1984-1985. As can be seen in paragraph 62 above, figures for 1996-1997 also indicate 3.0 per cent. The Advisory Committee points out that the pyramid is the result of efforts over the years by the Advisory Committee and the General Assembly to adopt a cautious approach so as to prevent what has frequently been referred to as "grade creep".

103. The Advisory Committee concurs with the view of the Secretary-General expressed in paragraph 28 of his report (A/49/339) that he should be allowed:

> "the flexibility of maintaining the relationship between the overall numbers for each grade at the level of the programme budget as a whole and if the relationship was defined as a range consistent with the current percentage distribution between grade levels as shown in table 3 above. Under such a system, the overall numbers and relative proportions of

Professional posts under the regular budget would only vary with the creation and suppression of posts."

104. In view of what it has stated in the paragraphs above, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposals in paragraphs 30 (a) and (b) of the Secretary-General's report on a trial basis as per paragraph 8 of its previous report. 13/ However, it does not believe that a separate annual report is necessary, as proposed in paragraph 30 (c) of the Secretary-General's report. Changes beyond the ranges indicated by the Secretary-General could be reported in the context of the performance report, at which point the General Assembly could require a future correction, if necessary. All changes to the manning table during a biennium, including in the classification of posts, should be explained by the Secretary-General in the proposed programme budget for the next biennium.

Extrabudgetary funds

105. As can be seen from paragraph 3 above, it is forecast that extrabudgetary funding will exceed $4,400,000,000 in 1996-1997.

Extrabudgetary resources, 1996-1997

	Percentage	Thousands of United States dollars	
Programmes with separate governing bodies			
UNHCR		2 416 885.8	
UNRWA		894 987.0	
UNDCP		151 172.1	
UNEP		242 938.5	
UNCHS		19 669.9	
	84.0		3 725 653.2
Technical cooperation funds			
UNDP		182 465.2	
UNFPA		28 761.7	
Other sources		170 491.5	
	8.6		381 718.4
Reimbursement for support/services provided			
Support account for peace-keeping		74 958.1	
Technical cooperation		43 678.4	
United Nations organizations		41 121.8	
Trust funds		17 241.5	
	4.0		176 999.8
Substantive trust funds	3.4		150 138.3
Total	100.0		4 434 509.7

The table above shows that the bulk of these are from UNHCR, UNRWA, UNDCP, UNEP and UNCHS. The Advisory Committee reports separately on the related administrative budgets to the governing bodies of the various programmes (see the preface to the present report). The Advisory Committee also reports to the governing bodies of UNDP, UNFPA and other United Nations programmes which provide technical cooperation funds (see the preface above). The Advisory Committee examines other extrabudgetary resources maintained in special accounts mainly in the context of its review of the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget. The Advisory Committee also receives information biannually on the status of trust funds. As indicated in paragraph 67 above, under the terms of section II, paragraph 2, of General Assembly resolution 35/217, the Advisory Committee considers proposals for all new posts at levels D-1 and above funded through extrabudgetary sources which are not otherwise subject to scrutiny by an intergovernmental body; similarly, the Advisory Committee is of the view that all such extrabudgetary posts should be managed with the same degree of care as is exercised with regular budget posts. The Advisory Committee intends to follow up on this when it reviews trust funds.

106. Observations on extrabudgetary funds have been a regular feature of the Advisory Committee reports in recent years. In its reports on the Secretary-General's proposed programme budgets for 1988-1989 and 1990-1991, 14/ the Advisory Committee made a number of observations regarding the extrabudgetary side of United Nations expenditure, including the need to define precisely the role of extrabudgetary financing in the overall structure of the United Nations. The Advisory Committee also drew attention to the need to refine the approval and reporting mechanisms so as to ensure that extrabudgetary expenditures "are subject to a greater measure of scrutiny and control". 15/

107. In paragraph 16 of its eighth report on the proposed programme budget for 1990-1991, 16/ the Advisory Committee stated its intention to look into the matter of arrangements for the administrative and budgetary review of the larger extrabudgetary funds and programmes such as the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control and UNRWA.

108. In paragraph 13 of the same report, the Advisory Committee recommended that:

> "the information on extrabudgetary resources included in the proposed programme budgets should be structured in such a way so as to permit an examination of the trust funds and extrabudgetary programmes by the Advisory Committee and to enable it to comment with specificity on proposals related to the administrative and/or support costs of the activities concerned, including the creation of new posts. The information provided should contain a clear indication of the role of these extrabudgetary resources in implementing approved programmes of work or in initiating new activities; it should also include sufficient programmatic and substantive information as to enable the Committee for Programme and Coordination to undertake an examination of the trust funds in the context of its review of the entire programme budget. At the same time, interested intergovernmental bodies would have access to information to enable an examination of extrabudgetary funds within their sector of activity." 16/

109. In its first report on the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993, 17/ the Advisory Committee drew attention to the need for accuracy in the forecast of the level of extrabudgetary resources. The Advisory Committee also recalled its previous request for the Secretary-General to devise a means to convey

information on the impact of additional extrabudgetary resources received during the course of a biennium.

110. In its tenth report on the programme budget for 1992-1993, 18/ the Advisory Committee stated its belief that more precise proposals were needed from the Secretary-General in the area of scrutiny and control of extrabudgetary expenditure. Moreover, the Advisory Committee believed that the question of the impact of extrabudgetary resources on programme priorities remained unclear.

111. As noted in paragraph 10 above, the proposed programme budget contains additional information on extrabudgetary resources. Each section of the programme budget contains, in addition to a breakdown of extrabudgetary resources by source of funds, a table showing extrabudgetary resources by major objects of expenditure broken down in terms of expenditures for the previous biennium and estimates for the current and future bienniums.

112. With regard to trust funds, the Advisory Committee was informed that programme managers are required to prepare and submit to the Programme Planning and Budget Division for review a yearly cost plan for each trust fund. Such cost plans are to include a clear indication of the relationship between the proposed expenditures and the activities included in the programme budget, to indicate which subprogramme they fall under and to contain a clear indication of the output/services to be rendered. Subsequently allotments are issued as appropriate. Programme managers are also required to prepare annual substantive reports for submission to the Programme Planning and Budget Division on the implementation of activities/services provided from each general trust fund. The Advisory Committee points out, however, that the precise role of these activities and related resources has not been described consistently in the narratives of the 1996-1997 programme budget.

113. The Advisory Committee notes that with regard to programmes with their own governing bodies and whose use of resources is subject to review and approval by their respective governing bodies, information is included in the proposed programme budget based on estimates provided by the managers of these programmes.

114. According to the Secretary-General, the difficulties encountered in including more precise information on extrabudgetary resources and activities to be funded from such resources lies in the unpredictable pattern of pledges and their subsequent payment. Such payments are, for the most part, made on an ad hoc basis outside the scope of biennial programming which governs the preparation of the budget. In this connection, the Advisory Committee points to paragraphs 31 to 34 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993. The Advisory Committee has been informed that, in the context of the preparation of the 1996-1997 budget, a systematic analysis has been undertaken of estimated versus actual expenditures during the previous bienniums, to identify cases where expectations of programme managers have been at variance with actual expenditures and ensure that the projections contained in the programme budget are as accurate as possible.

115. Aside from an adequate description of the use of trust funds and their relation to programme priorities and the provision of adequate information to ensure proper scrutiny and control, there is also a need to ensure that regular budget activities do not subsidize extrabudgetary budget activities and vice versa. The observations of the Advisory Committee on the reimbursement to the regular budget of the cost of accommodation for posts related to extrabudgetary

activities are contained in chapter II below in the context of the discussion of section 26D.

116. With regard to special-purpose contributions, the Advisory Committee reiterates its oft-repeated statement that where donors attach conditions that are contrary to United Nations policy, the Organization's regulations and rules shall prevail.

117. In a related matter, the Advisory Committee is aware of the burden which often arises as the result of reporting requirements by donors. The Advisory Committee recommends the development of a standard format and procedures for reporting on trust funds to donors with a view to reducing administrative burden and excessive overhead.

118. The Advisory Committee stresses the necessity of designating qualified and knowledgeable United Nations staff to supervise, manage and coordinate extrabudgetary funds and activities at Headquarters, in the field and in peace-keeping operations. The Advisory Committee recommends that this procedure be followed without exception.

Global conferences

119. The only global conference provided for in the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997 is the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), which is scheduled for June 1996 at a cost to the regular budget of $646,400 at revised 1994-1995 prices. Provision for the ninth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has been made in the proposed programme budget for 1994-1995.

Nature of expenses charged to the contingency fund

120. In paragraph 10 of its report on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 1996-1997 (A/49/796 and Corr.1), the Advisory Committee requested the Secretary-General to submit, in the context of his proposed programme budget for 1996-1997, information on the nature of expenses charged to the contingency fund so far, in order to enable the Advisory Committee to review procedures for the use, operation and level of the fund. This request was included by the General Assembly in paragraph 7 of its resolution 49/217. The requested information has not been provided; the Advisory Committee expects to receive the report early in the fiftieth session of the Assembly.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER UNITED NATIONS BODIES

121. The Advisory Committee has submitted reports to the following United Nations bodies:

(a) The Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes on the budgetary performance of WFP for 1992-1993;

(b) The Board of Trustees of UNITAR regarding the Institute's programme budget for 1994;

(c) The Board of Trustees of UNIDIR regarding the draft work programme and proposed budget for 1995;

(d) The Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, on UNHCR activities financed from voluntary funds for 1993-1994 and proposed programmes and budget for 1995;

(e) The Executive Board of UNICEF regarding conference facilities, recovery of costs for prorated project posts, self-financing supply division and review of UNICEF greeting card operation;

(f) The Executive Board of UNDP regarding revised budget estimates for 1994-1995, report on trust funds and summary of financial information on trust funds;

(g) The Executive Board of UNDP regarding the Office for Project Services;

(h) The Executive Board of UNDP regarding revised budget estimates for 1994-1995 and budget estimates for 1996-1997;

(i) The Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes on WFP's long-term financing, audited biennial accounts for 1992-1993 and financial report and operational reserve;

(j) The Executive Board of UNDP on the financial regulations governing the Office for Project Services and the proposal to relocate the headquarters of the United Nations Volunteers from Geneva to Bonn;

(k) The Board of Trustees of UNITAR regarding the Institute's programme budget for 1995;

(l) The Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the revised estimates for 1994-1995 and the proposed outline of the administrative and programme support costs budget of UNDCP for 1996-1997;

(m) The Executive Board of UNICEF regarding strengthening the management of UNICEF, the global funds programme, budget recommendations for 1994-1995 and the programme support costs budget for 1996-1997;

(n) The Governing Council of UNEP on the revised estimates of the programme and programme support costs budget of the Environment Fund for the biennium 1993-1994 and proposed budget for 1996-1997;

(o) The Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes on WFP's strategic and financial plan for 1996-1999;

(p) The Board of Trustees of UNIDIR on the Institute's draft work programme and proposed budget for 1996;

(q) The Commission on Human Settlements, on the proposed budget for the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1996-1997.

Comparative table of estimates as proposed by the Secretary-General and recommended by the Advisory Committee

(Thousands of United States dollars)

		Secretary-General's budget estimates for 1996-1997	Advisory Committee's recommendations
Estimates of expenditure			
PART I.	Overall policy-making, direction and coordination		
1.	Overall policy-making, direction and coordination	39 885.6	39 885.6
PART II.	Political affairs		
2.	Political affairs	59 330.5	59 330.5
3.	Peace-keeping operations and special missions	90 394.1	88 149.4
4.	Outer space affairs	4 477.6	4 477.6
PART III.	International justice and law		
5.	International Court of Justice	21 575.0	20 369.6
6.	Legal activities	31 107.3	31 107.3
PART IV.	International cooperation for development		
7A.	Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development	43 032.1	43 032.1
7B.	Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development	4 020.4	4 020.4
8.	Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis	48 364.3	48 233.7
9.	Department for Development Support and Management Services	25 832.7	25 832.7
10A.	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	116 783.1	116 783.1

		Secretary-General's budget estimates for 1996-1997	Advisory Committee's recommendations
10B.	International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT	21 642.0	21 642.0
11.	United Nations Environment Programme	9 986.1	9 986.1
12.	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)	14 800.4	14 800.4
13.	Crime control	4 913.4	4 793.3
14.	International drug control	16 409.4	16 307.4
PART V.	Regional cooperation for development		
15.	Economic Commission for Africa	79 524.8	79 524.8
16.	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	67 720.6	67 720.6
17.	Economic Commission for Europe	50 792.7	50 792.7
18.	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	90 645.8	90 645.8
19.	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	38 457.4	38 457.4
20.	Regular programme of technical cooperation	49 227.4	49 227.4
PART VI.	Human rights and humanitarian affairs		
21.	Human rights	49 717.7	49 597.4
22.	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	52 057.2	52 057.2
23.	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	23 611.7	23 611.7
24.	Department of Humanitarian Affairs	20 300.2	19 912.8

		Secretary-General's budget estimates for 1996-1997	Advisory Committee's recommendations
PART VII.	Public information		
25.	Public information	137 911.7	137 911.7
PART VIII.	Common support services		
26.	Administration and management	952 683.5	943 373.8
PART IX.	Jointly financed administrative activities and special expenses		
27.	Jointly financed administrative activities	27 447.4	27 447.4
28.	Special expenses	40 899.6	40 899.6
PART X.	Office of Internal Oversight Services		
29.	Office of Internal Oversight Services	15 821.8	15 689.6
PART XI.	Capital expenditures		
30.	Technological innovations	21 876.5	21 876.5
31.	Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance	46 438.6	42 782.7
PART XII.	Staff assessment		
32.	Staff assessment	368 603.2	367 510.4
PART XIII.	International Seabed Authority		
33.	International Seabed Authority	776.0	776.0
	Total estimates of expenditure	2 687 067.8	2 668 566.9
Estimates of income			
1.	Income from staff assessment	373 607.0	372 514.2
2.	General income	81 832.4	81 832.4
3.	Services to the public	5 982.0	5 982.0
	Total estimates of income	461 421.4	460 328.6
	Total net expenditure	2 225 646.4	2 208 238.3

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/50/6/Rev.1), vols. I and II.

2/ Ibid., vol. I.

3/ Ibid., Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/48/7).

4/ Ibid., Twenty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 8A (A/9008/Add.1-34), Add. 16.

5/ Ibid., Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/42/7).

6/ Ibid., Fortieth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/40/7), para. 66.

7/ Ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/44/7), para. 80.

8/ Ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/46/7), para. 67.

9/ Ibid., Thirty-third Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/33/7 and Add.1-39), document A/33/7/Add.39.

10/ Ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/46/7/Add.1-16), document A/46/7/Add.8.

11/ Ibid., Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/47/7 and Add.1-17), document A/47/7/Add.10.

12/ Ibid., Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/49/16), part two, paras. 115-119.

13/ Ibid., Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/48/7 and Add.1-17), document A/48/7/Add.11.

14/ Ibid., Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/42/7); and ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/44/7 and Corr.1 and 2).

15/ Ibid., Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/42/7), para. 2.

16/ Ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7A (A/44/7/Add.1-8), document A/44/7/Add.7.

17/ Ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/46/7), para. 72.

18/ Ibid., Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/47/7 and Add.1-17), document A/47/7/Add.9, paras. 24-28.

Chapter II

DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET

A. ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE

PART I. OVERALL POLICY-MAKING, DIRECTION AND COORDINATION

Section 1. Overall policy-making, direction and coordination

I.1. Part I of the proposed programme budget covers section 1, Overall policy-making, direction and coordination ($39,885,600).

I.2. The Advisory Committee notes from table 1.7 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, 1/ that an amount of $1,121,100 before recosting has been provided for travel under the requirements for the General Assembly, representing a reduction of $200,000, or 15.1 per cent, from the previous biennium. In this connection, the Advisory Committee was informed that the reduction was based on past experience, which had consistently shown a lower expenditure than the estimated amount.

I.3. The Advisory Committee requested information on resources made available to the Office of the President of the General Assembly, but, no reply was provided at the time of preparation of the present report. In this connection, the Advisory Committee is of the view that there is a need to ensure that the Office of the President of the General Assembly is provided with adequate resources.

I.4. As indicated in table 1.11 of the proposed programme budget, the estimate for the United Nations Board of Auditors (including its secretariat) amounts to $3,616,800 before recosting, representing a growth of 2.9 per cent over the previous biennium. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the cost of external audit also includes some $1.4 million under peace-keeping operations and $3.8 million under other programmes such as UNDO, UNICEF, UNHCR, etc.

I.5. The Advisory Committee observes that the requirements of the Board for the past few years have been underestimated in view of its increased workload. The Advisory Committee also recalls the provisions of General Assembly resolution 48/218 B, in which the Assembly emphasized the need to strengthen oversight control mechanisms. In this connection, the Advisory Committee was informed that the estimates received from the Board were included in proposed programme budgets without change.

I.6. With regard to the estimate for UNJSPB (including United Nations participation in the costs of the secretariat of UNJSPF), the Advisory Committee notes that the report of the Standing Committee of UNJSPB on the administrative expenses of the Fund will be submitted to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session. The Advisory Committee will revert to the matter at that time.

I.7. As indicated in table 1.20 of the proposed programme budget, requirements for posts under the Executive Office of the Secretary-General cover 76 established posts (29 Professional and 47 General Service and other categories) and 4 temporary posts (3 Professional and 1 General Service) from extrabudgetary resources. The Advisory Committee requested information on the total staff resources available to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General outside the regular budget, but no reply had been received at the time of preparation of the present report. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recommends that total staff resources available to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General be disclosed together with the source of financing.

I.8. The Advisory Committee recalls its observation in paragraph I.8 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for 1994-1995 2/ and section II, paragraph 8, of General Assembly resolution 48/228 A, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to ensure that there was no duplication with the work of other Secretariat units. The Advisory Committee reiterates this point with regard to the work of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General.

I.9. A provision of $180,300 before recosting has been included under the Executive Office of the Secretary-General for consultants and experts. In this connection, the Advisory Committee requested information on the current number of experts and consultants in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, but no reply had been received at the time of preparation of the present report.

PART II. POLITICAL AFFAIRS

II.1. Part II of the proposed programme budget covers section 2, the Department of Political Affairs ($59,330,500), section 3, the Department of Peace-keeping Operations and special missions ($90,394,100) and section 4, Outer space affairs ($4,477,600).

Section 2. Political affairs

II.2. As indicated in table 2.1 (1) of the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997, the Secretary-General's estimate for section 2 for 1996-1997 amounts to $56,313,800 before recosting, showing a reduction of $5,845,900 against the 1994-1995 appropriations.

II.3. Overall requirements for posts as shown in table 2.3 total 283, including 1 USG, 2 ASG, 28 D-2/D-1 and 12 General Service (Principal level) posts. The Advisory Committee was informed that because of the restructuring exercise it was not possible to fully compare resources proposed for 1996/1997 with those of past bienniums.

II.4. The Advisory Committee is of the opinion that while there has been considerable streamlining, the grade structure of the Department was still top-heavy. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General review once again the grade structure of this Department.

II.5. In paragraph 2.5 of the proposed programme budget it has been proposed to eliminate resources for the Office of the Coordinator of Assistance for the Reconstruction and Development of Lebanon (UNARDOL) on the ground that the situation in Lebanon is improving. The Advisory Committee was informed that these resources related to seven established posts and six temporary posts and that activities relating to UNARDOL would be entrusted to the Resident Coordinator of UNDP. The Advisory Committee recalls that when the General Assembly considered the report of the Secretary-General (A/49/388 of 22 September 1994), it took no action on the recommendation to end the programme.

II.6. In table 2.10 of the proposed programme budget, an amount of $96,000 before recosting, reflecting a decrease of $10,500 or 9.8 per cent against the current biennium, has been proposed under the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 2.114 of the proposed programme budget that it is proposed to redeploy from the Division of Palestinian Rights, one P-3 post to the General Assembly Secretariat Services Branch and another P-3 to the General Assembly Subsidiary Organs Secretariat Services Branch. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, the proposed reduction should have been explained fully. In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 2.25 of the proposed programme budget that it is envisaged that the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People "will remain in existence until a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement of the question of Palestine has been achieved". Therefore, it is the view of the Advisory Committee that before estimates for the subprogramme on the Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People are approved by the General Assembly, there is a need for the Secretary-General to justify fully the rationale for the proposed reduction.

II.7. As indicated in table 2.19 of the proposed programme budget, under preventive diplomacy and peacemaking, it is proposed to increase posts from 46

(32 Professional and 14 General Service posts) to 91 (59 Professional and 32 General Service posts). Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the increase was to be met almost entirely by the redeployment of resources within the Department from the former Branch for Pacific Settlement Procedures in Africa, the Research and Data Collection Unit and the Division for Regional Cooperation and Self-determination. This follows the further restructuring of the Department in March 1994, which resulted in the consolidation of activities relating to preventive diplomacy and peacemaking, the creation of two new regional divisions, Africa I and Africa II, and an increase in the number of regional divisions in the Department to six. The redeployment of resources from the former apartheid-related activities (one P-5, one P-4, one P-3 and four General Service posts) also contributed to the increase.

II.8. In table 2.21 of the proposed programme budget, an increase of 16 (8 Professional and 8 General Service) posts is being requested for General Assembly affairs. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that this increase is the result of the redeployment of posts within the Department following the merger of the two parts of the Department in March 1994 and the reorganization of the General Assembly Affairs Division, of which provision is made for two subdivisional units: the General Assembly Secretariat Services Branch and the Decolonization Secretariat Services Branch. In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 2.64 of the proposed programme budget that the revised structure of the Division was initially proposed by the Secretary-General in annex III of his report (A/C.5/49/44) and subsequently approved by the General Assembly.

II.9. The Advisory Committee notes from table 2.23 of the proposed programme budget that a continuation of six temporary posts (one P-5, one P-4, and four General Service) and an increase of six established posts (two Professional and four General Service) and three temporary posts in the General Service category are being requested for Security Council affairs. With regard to the request to maintain six temporary posts, the Advisory Committee was informed that these relate to servicing of the sanctions committees, whose duration is presently unknown. In connection with the proposal to add six posts, the Advisory Committee was informed that that was found necessary in order to cope with the expansion in the work of the Council, which had resulted in holding daily meetings and consultations on a continuous basis. The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the two proposals.

II.10. An amount of $459,100 before recosting has been estimated in table 2.18 of the proposed programme budget for travel, representing an increase of $446,100 over the current biennium. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that following the merger of the two parts of the Department and its consequent restructuring, all resources identified for travel relating to preventive diplomacy and peacemaking activities have been amalgamated under this subsection. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 2.53 of the proposed programme budget that 71.1 per cent, or $317,400, of the proposed increase results from the pooling of resources, redeployed from Executive Direction and Management ($230,900) and Programme Support ($86,500). The Advisory Committee was informed that the increase for travel under preventive diplomacy and peacemaking was a result of fact-finding missions undertaken by staff of the Department to render support to special representatives of the Secretary-General. The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of this estimate.

II.11. As indicated in paragraph 2.51 of the proposed programme budget, one P-3 post and four General Service temporary posts under the subprogramme for regional, political and security cooperation are proposed for conversion to established posts "in view of the continuing nature of the activities". In view of the observation made in paragraphs II.15 below, the Advisory Committee recommends against acceptance of these proposals.

II.12. As indicated in paragraph 2.74 of the proposed programme budget, it is proposed to abolish one P-5 post from the Security Council Practices and Charter Research Branch and a continuation of six temporary posts (one P-5, one P-4 and four General Service) approved in the biennium 1994-1995. The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of this proposal.

II.13. At its request, the Advisory Committee was provided information on the breakdown of posts in regional centres for disarmament as follows: one P-5 post and five Local level posts (one G-6, one G-4, one G-2 and two G-1A) for Lome; one P-5 post and one Local level post at the G-6 level for Lima; and one P-5 post for Katmandu. The Advisory Committee was informed that owing to the lack of extrabudgetary resources for operational activities, the Director for Katmandu was still in New York and that the P-5 posts of the Director for Lome and the Director for Lima were currently being utilized on a temporary basis to carry out work related to the Conventional Arms Register, although the recruitment process was under way to fill the posts. With regard to the Director for Katmandu being in New York, the Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 44/117 F of 15 December 1989, requested "the Secretary-General to establish, as soon as practicable, the post of Director at each of the regional centres so as to ensure" their effective functioning. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls its previous recommendation in paragraph 4 of its fourteenth report on the programme budget for 1992-1993 3/ on the revised estimates under section 37 "that the Secretary-General, in the context of his proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, submit his long-term proposals with respect to these regional centres, in particular as regards their financial viability". The Advisory Committee reiterates its recommendation. In this connection, it is the intention of the Advisory Committee to examine this issue in the context of its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the financing of regional centres.

II.14. In paragraph 2.128 of the proposed programme budget, it is proposed, under programme support, to abolish one D-1 post and one General Service post and to redeploy one P-5 and two General Service (Other level) posts to the Security Council Affairs Division in exchange for one P-4 post. In this connection, the Advisory Committee was informed that the current staffing level for Programme support reflected the fact that the Department was created in 1992 by bringing together five existing units, each of which brought its Executive Office with it. The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of this proposal.

II.15. With regard to the cooperation between the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Department of Political Affairs provided political input in the reports submitted by Department of Peace-keeping Operations. In connection with the role of the Department of Political Affairs in the appointment of political officers for peace-keeping operations, the Advisory Committee was informed that, in most cases, during the selection process, the Department of Political Affairs had a representative on the selection panel who advised on the Department's choice. In other cases, however, the Department of Political Affairs only reviewed and gave its concurrence in the selection of candidates. In this connection, the Advisory Committee requests the Secretary-General to review criteria for the division of responsibilities between Department of Political Affairs and Department of Peace-keeping

Operations so as to ensure clear delineation of tasks between the two Departments and close cooperation in carrying out their mandates; in particular current arrangements for the staffing of geographical desks in both Departments should be reviewed to eliminate overlaps and ensure coordination (see chap. 1 above and para. II.35 below).

II.16. It is proposed to provide $440,000 for the subvention of UNIDIR in the biennium 1996-1997 (see para. 2.99 of the proposed programme budget). The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposed subvention to UNIDIR for 1996-1997, subject to procedure for its annual confirmation by the General Assembly. The Advisory Committee also reiterates its recommendation that "every effort should be made to secure unrestricted contributions and to charge a fair share of the Institute's support costs to tied contributions so that the charges to the regular budget could be minimized". 4/

Section 3. Peace-keeping operations and special missions

II.17. The Secretary-General's estimate for section 3 for the 1996-1997 biennium amounts to $80,097,200 before recosting. As shown in table 3.1 (1), principally because no provision is requested for ad hoc missions (see para. II.33 below), the 1994-1995 resource base has been reduced by $52,124,700.

II.18. For the reasons stated in paragraph 3.9 of the proposed programme budget, the Secretary-General is requesting transfer of 19 posts (one D-1, eight P-5, two P-3 and eight General Service posts) from the support account to section 3 of the regular budget and redeployment of a D-1 post from section 2, Political affairs, to section 3. In this connection, the Advisory Committee was informed that the goal was to have 122 posts on the regular budget to be granted over a period of time. At its request, the Advisory Committee was provided with additional information on the above 19 posts.

II.19. Bearing in mind what the Advisory Committee has said in chapter I above with regard to the ratio of support to Professional staff under the regular budget, and in view of the ongoing effort to further streamline the operations of the Organization (see chap. I above), the Advisory Committee is not recommending in favour of the transfer of any of the General Service posts from the support account to the regular budget at this time.

II.20. The conversion of one General Service post at the Principal level and one General Service post at Other level is proposed for the Office of the Under-Secretary-General. The incumbent of the principal level post is in charge of the Department's registry and is responsible for planning, developing and organizing the records management system of the Department. Secretarial support to the Under-Secretary-General is to be provided by the incumbent of the other General Service post requested. On basis of its recommendation in paragraph II.19 above, the Advisory Committee does not recommend acceptance of the conversion of the two General Service posts, even though it is the view of the Advisory Committee that the functions of planning, developing and organizing the records management system of the Department to be performed by the incumbent at the Principal level would appear to be functions that should be funded from the regular budget.

II.21. Under the Executive Office, it is proposed to convert one P-5 post and one General Service post. The P-5 post is for the Executive Officer, who is responsible for all personnel, financial and administrative matters concerning the Department. The incumbent of the General Service post is to assist in the personnel administration of Headquarters staff of the Department. While the Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the proposal to convert the P-5 post for the Executive Officer, for reasons given in paragraph II.19 above, it recommends against approval of the conversion of the General Service post.

II.22. In the Policy and Analysis Unit, one P-5 post is proposed for conversion from the support account to the regular budget. The incumbent of the P-5 post is required to conduct in-depth research and analysis, to draft reports and make recommendation with regard to policy and doctrinal issues relevant to United Nations peace-keeping and to provide technical and substantive services to the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations. The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the conversion of the P-5 post from the support account to the regular budget.

II.23. The conversion of three posts (two P-5 and one General Service) from the support account to the regular budget is proposed for the Office of Operations. The incumbents of the two P-5 posts (one for the Africa Division and the other for the Asia and Middle East Division) are assigned as desk officers for peace-keeping operations and are responsible for the executive management of operations. The functions of the General Service post requested for conversion are that of providing secretariat support to the Assistant Secretary-General. The Advisory Committee recommends against acceptance of the conversion of the two P-5 posts and one General Service post.

II.24. In the Office of Planning and support, two posts (one P-3 and one General Service) have been proposed for conversion from the support account to the regular budget. The functions of the P-3 post are to coordinate activities relating to the drafting of military training manuals and training instructions and to assist with the planning and conducting of peace-keeping training seminars and workshops. The functions of the General Service post are that of providing secretariat support for the Assistant Secretary-General. The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the conversion of the P-3 post and recommends against approval of the conversion of the General Service post.

II.25. The conversion of one General Service post from the support account to the regular budget is proposed for the Office of the Director, Field Administration and Logistic Division. The post is for an administrative assistant who is required to provide administrative and secretarial support to the Director. For reasons given in paragraph II.19 above, the Advisory Committee recommends against acceptance of the conversion of the General Service post for the Office of the Director, Field Administration and Logistic Division.

II.26. Under the Finance Management and Support Service, three posts (one P-5, one P-3 and one General Service post) have been requested for conversion from the support account to the regular budget. The incumbent of the P-5 post, as Chief, Review and Analysis Section, will act as focal point for audit matters and internal controls, will ensure the systematic processing of government claims for reimbursement in respect of supplies and services, death and disability awards and contingent-owned equipment and will coordinate and provide information on the financial status of missions within the Department. The incumbent of the P-3 post, as Financial Planning Officer, will be responsible for monitoring the legislative process and related documentation to ensure the resources requirements are elaborated within the appropriate framework of mandated activities. The General Service post is that of administrative and secretarial support to the Chief, Finance Management and Support Service. The Advisory Committee believes that the need for the related functions of these posts fluctuates with the level of peace-keeping activity; they therefore should continue to be funded by the support account. Accordingly, the Advisory Committee does not recommend the conversion of the three posts under the Finance Management and Support Service.

II.27. Three posts (one D-1, one P-5 and one General Service post) have been requested for conversion from the support account to the regular budget for the Logistics and Communications Service. The D-1 post is that of the Chief, Logistics and Communications Service, who will assume responsibility of all logistics engineering, transportation, medical and communication matters affecting peace-keeping operations. The incumbent of the P-5 post will be responsible for the engineering related peace-keeping and other missions administered by the Division. The General Service post incumbent will, as Administrative Assistant, provide administrative and secretarial support to the Chief, Logistics and Communications Service. The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the conversion of the two Professional posts (one D-1 and one P-5) and for the reasons given in paragraph II.19 above recommends against the conversion of the General Service post.

II.28. Under the Personnel Management and Support Service, two P-5 posts have been proposed for conversion from the support account to the regular budget. The incumbent of one of the P-5 posts, as Chief, Administration and Records Section, will be responsible for coordinating and supervising the work of the Section, which administers the work of staff in the field. The incumbent of the other P-5 post, as Chief of the Staffing Support Section, assumes responsibility for the overall management of the Section, comprising a Staffing Unit and Travel Unit. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee the functions to be performed by the incumbents of these posts would fluctuate depending on the level of Peace-keeping operations. Therefore, the Advisory Committee recommends against acceptance of the conversion of the two P-5 posts under the Personnel Management and Support Service.

II.29. The Advisory Committee was informed that military personnel on non-reimbursable loan from Governments to the United Nations numbered 95 at 31 May 1995. In this connection, the Advisory Committee regrets that complete information relating to resources made available to the United Nations on a non-reimbursable basis was not included in the estimate. The Advisory Committee recalls paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 48/226 C of 29 July 1994, in which the Assembly took note of the Advisory Committee's request that the Secretary-General submit a report on the various aspects related to the secondment to the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, at no cost to the United Nations, of military and civilian personnel by a number of Member States.

II.30. In response to an inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) and the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) were family missions. The Advisory Committee was also informed that there were no provisions for general temporary assistance in UNTSO and UNMOGIP.

II.31. The Advisory Committee welcomes the efforts of the Secretary-General in streamlining the administrative structure and activities of UNTSO, which resulted in a net reduction of $8,614,500. In response to an inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the reductions were achieved by closing three outposts (El Arish, St. Catherine and El Melize) in Egypt and the United Nations Liaison Office at Amman, the consolidation of inspection areas in the Golan Heights and the elimination of one of the two military observers provided by UNTSO to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The Advisory Committee was informed that the proposed UNTSO establishment comprised 125 international and 129 Local level posts. The Advisory Committee was given a functional breakdown of these posts. The Advisory Committee recommends that staff and non-staff resources for UNTSO be kept under review so as to achieve maximum economy and efficiency and that the possibility of further reductions be explored.

II.32. In paragraph 3.33 of the proposed programme budget, the Secretary-General, owing to enhanced communications, has proposed to abolish a P-3 post, to convert 7 Field Service posts into Local level category posts and to reduce 25 Field Service posts and 19 Local level posts. The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of this proposal.

II.33. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 3.52 of the proposed programme budget that the amount of $3,540,900, before recosting, under other staff costs would cover the cost of continuation of the provision, under general temporary assistance, for the 29 posts (3 P-4, one P-3, 3 General Service, 4 Field Service, 4 Security Officers and 14 Local level posts) approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/220. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the request to maintain these posts as temporary was due to the fact that the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories was a new operation. The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of this estimate. However, the Advisory Committee is of the view that these posts should have been disclosed in the staffing table 3.19.

II.34. The Advisory Committee notes in paragraph 3.59 of the proposed programme budget that since activities relating to ad hoc missions will either have been completed by 1996 or are of an extraordinary nature that their extension cannot be foreseen at this stage, no provisions are being requested at this time. The Advisory Committee also notes that appropriations for 1994-1995 under this subsection amounted to $48,963,500 (see table 3 of the introduction to the proposed programme budget 1/).

II.35. With regard to the division of functions between the Department of Peace-keeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs, it is the view of the Advisory Committee that there is a need to avoid duplication of functions between the two Departments (see para. II.15 above).

Section 4. Outer space affairs

II.36. As recalled in paragraph 4.8 of the proposed programme budget, the estimates for 1994-1995 provided for the relocation of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to Vienna and the programme was initially considered as part of section 3, Political affairs, and reflected under subsection 3D.

II.37. In paragraphs 4.10 and 4.16 of the proposed programme budget, it is proposed to redeploy resources for general temporary assistance ($6,200), overtime ($6,700) and acquisition and replacement of office automation equipment ($30,200) from the Department of Political Affairs under which requirements for the outer space programme were considered in the estimates for 1994-1995. The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of this proposal.

PART III. INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE AND LAW

III.1. Part III of the proposed programme budget covers section 5, International Court of Justice ($21,575,000) and section 6, Legal activities ($31,107,300).

Section 5. International Court of Justice

III.2. As shown in table 5.1 of the proposed programme budget, the Secretary-General's estimate for section 5 for 1996-1997 amounts to $20,501,400 before recosting, showing an increase of $1,185,400 over the 1994-1995 appropriations.

III.3. As indicated in paragraph 5.8 of the proposed programme budget, the conditions of service and compensation of members of the Court are due for review during the fiftieth session of the General Assembly; hence, estimates relating to common staff costs of judges and salaries and allowances of judges are based on existing rates.

III.4. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 5.13 of the proposed programme budget that an amount of $57,000, before recosting, has been proposed for travel and subsistence of the President of the Court to attend sessions of the General Assembly and travel and subsistence on other official business by members of the Court. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that various issues relating to the travel estimate for the Court were being addressed by the External Auditors and that a report on this was being prepared which would also cover other issues, including overhead costs incurred by the United Nations in arbitration cases. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, all travel must be in accordance with Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. It is the intention of the Advisory Committee to take up those issues in the context of its consideration of the report of the Board of External Auditors when submitted to the Advisory Committee and the General Assembly.

III.5. In paragraph 5.15 of the proposed programme budget, an amount of $8,221,200 before recosting, is being requested for the continuation of 54 established posts (22 Professional and 32 General Service posts), the conversion of 3 General Service temporary posts to established posts and the continuation of 4 temporary posts (2 P-4 and 2 General Service posts).

III.6. With regard to the request to convert three temporary posts to established category, the Advisory Committee was informed that this was to provide two secretaries of judges and a finance assistant to assist with the maintenance, installation and management of the Court's computer systems.

III.7. It has not been made clear to the Advisory Committee how a finance assistant relates to the maintenance of a computer system. The Advisory Committee recalls that seven temporary posts, including the three now proposed for conversion, were requested for the Court for the biennium 1994-1995. The Advisory Committee recommended that the seven posts be accepted. However, in paragraph III.4 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for 1994-1995, 2/ the Advisory Committee expressed its belief that the application of new technology "should enhance the Court's capacity to deal with a larger workload and achieve higher cost-effectiveness". In view of this and of the fact that resources have been requested for further automation of the work of the Court in

1996-1997, the Advisory Committee recommends against acceptance of the conversions.

III.8. In connection with the proposal to continue four temporary posts, the Advisory Committee was informed that in view of the increase in the case-load of the Court, there was a continued need for the two P-4 temporary posts for translators and the two clerk-typists to carry out secretarial functions for all Professional staff of the Registry. The Advisory Committee did not find sufficient justification for the continuation of the posts. The related services should be funded from the proposed amount of $1,113,600 before recosting under other staff costs, requested for the Registry (table 5.5).

III.9. As indicated in paragraph 5.18 of the proposed programme budget, the amount of $56,500 (equivalent to $60,200 for 1996-1997) is being proposed for the travel of the Registry staff on official business. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that this request related to the travel of the Registrar to New York to accompany the President of the Court and to discuss the budget and conditions of service and compensation of members of the Court. The Advisory Committee recommends an amount of $40,000 and trusts that these funds will be administered with due regard to economy.

III.10. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 5.19 of the proposed programme budget that resource growth in the amount of $20,000 is being requested to cover hospitality requirements relating to the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Court. It is the view of the Advisory Committee that the amount requested could be absorbed within the available resources.

III.11. In paragraph 5.22 of the proposed programme budget, provision is made of $457,400 related to the enlargement of premises available to the Court. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that owing to increased workload and the presence of more ad hoc judges, the Court was experiencing a serious shortage of office space. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, the information provided was insufficient for it to take a decision at the present time. The Advisory Committee therefore recommends that this provision be deleted pending a special report to be submitted to the General Assembly early in the fiftieth session; the report should reflect possible measures for cooperation with other entities at The Hague.

III.12. An amount of $256,900 before recosting is being requested to cover, inter alia, costs of long-distance telephone calls. It is the view of the Advisory Committee that this estimate is high and trusts that measures will be taken to reduce these costs. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that this estimate be reduced to $200,000 before recosting.

III.13. With regard to the request for the amount of $7,500 before recosting for the purchase of three portable computers for members of the Court to use at home, the Advisory Committee trusts that care will be taken to ensure that there is no redundancy in the purchase of equipment.

III.14. In connection with the cooperation between the Court and the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, the Advisory Committee recalls that in paragraph 37 of its thirteenth report on the programme budget for 1994-1995, 5/ it expressed its view that negotiations among the entities at The Hague should continue with the aim of obtaining economies of administrative services. The Advisory Committee also recalls that in its resolution 49/242 B of 20 July 1995, the General Assembly requested the Tribunal and the Court to continue negotiations on common administrative arrangements with the aim of obtaining economies of administrative services. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that discussions were still going on with regard to the possible sharing of the use of equipment and the library.

Section 6. Legal activities

III.15. As shown in table 6.2 (1) of the proposed programme budget, the Secretary-General's estimate for section 6 for 1996-1997 amounts to $29,370,000 before recosting, showing a reduction of $2,062,500 against the 1994-1995 appropriations.

III.16. As indicated in paragraph 6.8 of the proposed programme budget, the International Law Commission meets annually for 12 weeks and reports to the General Assembly. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that during the first 11 weeks of its session, the Commission holds 8 meetings a week and during the last week of the session it holds 10 meetings. The Advisory Committee recommends that the reasons for this practice should be provided in the proposed programme budget for 1998-1999.

III.17. With regard to the elimination of the backlog of the United Nations Treaty Series, the Advisory Committee was informed that at the end of 1994, the material registered with the Secretariat amounted to a cumulative total of 1,732 manuscript pages, while volumes published up to 1 June 1995 amounted to 1,404 volumes. Of the 169 volumes that are at the printing stage, 129 volumes (representing the years 1986 to 1989) are with the Copy Preparation and Proofreading Section of the Office of Conference and Support Services. A further 159 volumes, of which 136 are incomplete with regard to translations, are in preparation for publication in the Treaty Section. The Advisory Committee was also informed that the backlog was due to problems related to translation and proofreading the treaties. Measures taken or being considered for expediting the elimination of the backlog comprised a computerization programme, including implementation of a work-flow system that would eliminate virtually all repetitive manual tasks in the Treaty Section. The use of external translators and desktop publication would also be introduced. The Advisory Committee welcomes these measures, which, if properly implemented, could lead to considerable savings, as well as enable the Secretary-General to discharge his obligations under Article 102 of the Charter in a much more timely and cost-effective manner.

III.18. Paragraphs 6.35 to 6.37 of the proposed programme budget contains information of the computerization programme being implemented. This programme involves the creation and implementation of the United Nations Treaty Information System (UNTIS)/Local area networks (LAN) workflow system in the Treaty Series. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that in order to ensure the security of the United Nations computerized Treaty Series, the Electronic Services Division was presently exploring two options: the first option was a "fire wall" system, which would enable information to be provided to users outside the United Nations on a one-way basis while preventing unauthorized access; the other option is to use a server physically separated from the database to provide access to the outside.

III.19. As indicated in table 6.1 (2) of the proposed programme budget, the extrabudgetary resources for legal activities are estimated to decrease from $4,819,000 in 1994-1995 to $3,894,100 in 1996-1997. This amount comprises

$3,453,600 for services in support of other United Nations organizations and extrabudgetary programmes and $440,500 for substantive activities. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General should review the adequacy of reimbursements from extrabudgetary activities as it relates to demand.

III.20. As indicated in paragraph 6.13 of the proposed programme budget, the amount of $196,100 before recosting relates to the external printing cost of, inter alia, the Yearbook of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls and reiterates its comment in paragraph 9.6 of the first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 6/ that in view of the large commercial benefits of these publications, it would be appropriate to request relevant non-governmental subscribers to support the work of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, which could result in substantial savings. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that a number of subscribers receive the Yearbook in exchange for law reviews or other publications needed by the Branch. Other subscribers are those that have been included in the Commission's general mailing list on the ground that they are in a position to disseminate further information relating to the Commission. It is, however, the view of the representatives of the Secretary-General that subscribers such as law firms and libraries should pay for the Yearbook. The Advisory Committee shares this view.

III.21. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 6.19 of the proposed programme budget that payment of honoraria to members of the Administrative Tribunal is based on rates set by the General Assembly in its resolution 35/218. The question of honoraria is dealt with in chapter I above.

III.22. It is proposed to establish one P-3 post in the General Legal Division and to upgrade one P-2 post to the P-3 level for the position of the Librarian in the Division of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea Library and Reference Collection. With regard to the request for the P-3 post, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Division had experienced an increase in the workload arising from greater demand for legal services involving procurement activities, property arrangements and other commercial activities of the Organization. In keeping with General Assembly resolution 48/228 C of 29 July 1994, the Advisory Committee recommends the upgrading of one P-2 post to the P-3 level for the position of Librarian. The Advisory Committee also recommends acceptance of the establishment of one P-3 post in the General Legal Division.

III.23. The Advisory Committee notes from table 6.18 of the proposed programme budget that although the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea has entered into force and the General Assembly, in its resolution 48/263 of 28 July 1994, adopted the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the Convention, an amount of $6,505,900 before recosting is being requested for the Division of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that these resources were still necessary to fulfil the mandate entrusted to the Secretary-General under the Convention and by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/28 of 6 December 1994. This mandate includes the establishment and servicing of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and the promotion of the widespread acceptance of the Convention and its uniform and consistent application.

III.24. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that there were 67 legal officers carrying out legal functions in the Secretariat other than the Office of Legal Affairs; of these, 29 served in peace-keeping missions. The Advisory Committee trusts that procedures are in place to ensure that any legal advice given by these officers will be consistent with the practice of the United Nations Legal Counsel.

PART IV. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

IV.1. Part IV of the proposed programme budget covers sections 7 to 14, comprising section 7A, Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development ($43,032,100), section 7B, Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development ($4,020,400), section 8, Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis ($48,364,300), section 9, Department for Development Support and Management Services ($25,832,700), section 10A, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development ($116,783,100), section 10B, International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT ($21,642,000), section 11, United Nations Environment Programme ($9,986,100), section 12, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) ($14,800,400), section 13, Crime control ($4,913,400) and section 14, International drug control ($16,409,400).

Section 7A. Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development

IV.2. As indicated in paragraph 7A.1 of the proposed programme budget, the responsibilities of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development are defined in the Secretary-General's report (A/C.5/47/88) and in General Assembly resolution 47/212 B of 6 May 1993; as indicated in paragraph 7A.2, its principal responsibility is to provide support for the central coordinating and policy-making functions vested in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, as well as for the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly. Paragraph 7A.2 (c) of the proposed programme budget states that the Department concentrates on "assisting the Secretary-General in the exercise of his responsibilities for system-wide coordination and assisting him, along with other organizational entities, in ensuring policy coherence, coordination and efficient management in the economic and social sectors within the United Nations proper". In its report on the UNDP biennial budget for 1996-1997, the Advisory Committee has noted the establishment by the Administrator, at the request of the Secretary-General, of an Office of United Nations System Support and Services, inter alia, to support the Administrator in his responsibility to assist the Secretary-General in ensuring system-wide coordination and policy coherence. In view of the responsibility of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development in this regard, the Advisory Committee has requested that this matter be clarified during the consideration of the analysis the Secretary-General will submit to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the triennial policy review, as requested in paragraph 55 of General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992.

IV.3. The level of resources proposed for this section of the budget amounts to $40,822,600 before recosting and taking into account a reduction of $7,266,900 relating to the non-recurrent activities described in paragraph 7A.9. In terms of posts, the overall reduction reflects a decrease of 10 owing to the deletion of non-recurrent activities. Thus, the posts proposed for the biennium 1996-1997 total 210, with 115 in the Professional category and 95 General Service posts. As shown in table 7A.3 of the proposed programme budget, extrabudgetary resources provide for continuing one post at the P-5 level and one General Service post. On inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the two posts were financed by the extrabudgetary funds from UNFPA indicated in table 7A.10 of the budget submission.

IV.4. As indicated in paragraph 7A.59 (c), it is proposed to establish one P-3 post to strengthen the capacity of the Division for Sustainable Development in the coordination of inputs of governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and major groups in the implementation of Agenda 21, in particular, through the preparation of workshops and other activities. The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of this request. As indicated in paragraph 7A.60 of the budget submission, the provision of $150,500 before recosting for general temporary assistance, which was approved by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session for follow-up to the Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States would be discontinued in connection with the proposed creation of one P-5 post and one P-4 post. Under the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of these two posts.

IV.5. The Advisory Committee notes the large number of parliamentary documentation and other publications being produced by the Department. In this connection, the Advisory Committee welcomes the comments of the Commission for Social Development on the proposed programme of work of the Division for Social Policy and Development for the biennium 1996-1997 (E/AC.51/1995/4, para. 7). The Advisory Committee understands that with the exception of the Commission, the programme of work of the Department had not been examined by the other relevant intergovernmental bodies owing to the scheduling of their respective sessions. In the opinion of the Advisory Committee, intergovernmental review of the entire programme of work should be undertaken as a matter of course (see chap. I above).

IV.6. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 7A.31 of the proposed programme budget that an amount of $500,000 before recosting has been estimated for the United Nations contribution to the financing of the activities of the Non-Governmental Liaison Service for 1996-1997. Other contributors within the system are agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations. The Advisory Committee recalls that for the biennium 1994-1995 the General Assembly, in section II, paragraph 18, of its resolution 48/228 A, endorsed provisional financing for the Service through the United Nations regular budget on the understanding that such financing would not be used for salaries, travel and representation activities of the staffs of non-governmental organizations and that the Secretary-General would require a report from the Non-Governmental Liaison Service on the use of the amount contributed, which would be subject to audit by appropriate bodies. The Advisory Committee requests that this information be made available before the General Assembly approves the request of $500,000.

IV.7. The Advisory Committee was informed that, in addition to its ongoing public information and related activities, during the biennium 1996-1997 the Non-Governmental Liaison Service would continue to provide support and assistance to major United Nations system conferences, forums and events such as Habitat II, the ninth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Food Summit to be held at FAO headquarters in March 1996, the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Economic and Social Council and its Commissions, as well as follow-up to the other major conferences held in recent years.

IV.8. The Advisory Committee also believes that the issue of liaison with the growing number of non-governmental organizations needs to be monitored so as to ensure that such services are adequate. In this connection the Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 7A.40 of the proposed programme budget that 1,550 non-governmental organizations are presently in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and that the Department provides assistance in the coordination of their activities.

IV.9. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 7A.29 that it is proposed to establish an Information Support Unit, after consolidation and centralization of the related information support functions and with resources redeployed from other areas of the Department; the Advisory Committee understands that this unit will be responsible for collection, coordination and dissemination of technological and electronic information relating to the responsibilities of the Department. The Advisory Committee welcomes this initiative, given the fact that with the expanding number of intergovernmental bodies and machinery the Unit will enable the Department to keep track of intergovernmental mandates.

Section 7B. Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development

IV.10. As indicated in paragraph 7B.2 of the submission, General Assembly resolution 46/185 B of 20 December 1991 approved the proposal to establish a separate, identifiable unit for Africa within the former Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation and also approved the proposal that the implementation of a number of specific activities be assigned to ECA and the Department of Public Information. Following the restructuring of the Secretariat, the responsibility for the unit was assumed by the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis through the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries. ECA exercises team leadership and responsibility for coordination and cooperation at the regional level in the implementation of the programme and the Department of Public Information is responsible for a special programme highlighting Africa's economic concerns.

IV.11. In section V of its resolution 49/219, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a draft budget section containing proposals, for implementation during 1996-1997, for activities mandated under programme 45 of the medium-term plan for 1992-1997. The legislative authority and the activities to be undertaken under section 7B are described in paragraphs 7B.1 to 7B.4 of the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997.

IV.12. As indicated in the budget submission, during the biennium the activities under the programme will be aimed at assisting the Secretary-General in implementation of the New Agenda for Development in Africa in the 1990s; to undertake activities described in programme 45; to coordinate the implementation of the System-wide Plan of Action for African Recovery and Development and to assist the General Assembly in 1996 in its mid-term review and assessment of the New Agenda.

IV.13. The resources requested amount to $3,787,600 before recosting, after an increase of $320,500, which will provide for two additional P-3 posts to strengthen the programme. As indicated in table 7B.6, the utilization of the resources requested for this section of the budget would be divided among the three subprogrammes which would be carried out by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, ECA and the Department of Public Information respectively. The division of the existing and proposed staff resources has also been shown in table 7B.6 of the budget submission. The Advisory Committee notes that one of the new P-3 posts is proposed for the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development while the other is proposed to be utilized within ECA. The functions to be performed by the two additional P-3 posts are indicated in paragraph 7B.16 of the proposed programme budget. The Advisory Committee recommends that the proposal to establish the two P-3 posts be approved.

IV.14. The Advisory Committee also notes from paragraph 7B.17 that it is proposed to redeploy one General Service post to the Office of the Special Coordinator from the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (section 7A); a total of 16 posts is proposed for the section, to be financed from the regular budget during 1996-1997. Table 7B.2 of the budget submission also shows a P-4/3 post to be financed from extrabudgetary resources.

IV.15. Additionally, the Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 7B.18 of the proposed programme budget that a provision in the amount of $192,700 before recosting, including a resource growth of $30,000, is proposed under general temporary assistance for the Office of the Special Coordinator ($59,600) and ECA ($133,100) to cope with additional workload relating to the preparation of the mid-term review of the New Agenda in 1996. An amount of $102,200, reflecting a negative growth of $4,700, would be required under external expertise for research, writing and design of information material in relation to the publication of Africa Recovery by the Department of Public Information; the Advisory Committee recommends that in-house capability be developed for this purpose.

IV.16. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the functions of the D-2 post (Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries) for the extended period during which the incumbent had been deployed on a special mission, were being carried out by the Under-Secretary-General and the incumbent of the D-1 post assigned to that Office. The Advisory Committee regrets this situation and recommends that it be rectified as quickly as possible.

Section 8. Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis

IV.17. The resources requested for this section of the budget amount to $45,881,800 before recosting and after a decrease of $344,100, mainly as a result of non-recurrent activities such as the International Conference on Population and Development, offset by increases resulting from the proposed reclassification of posts as well as the establishment of five additional posts.

IV.18. The Secretary-General has proposed a total of 148 posts to be funded from the regular budget, including three additional posts in the Professional category (one D-2 and two P-5), offset by the abolition of two posts (one D-1 and one P-4/3). In addition 17 extrabudgetary posts are proposed for a grand total of 165 posts in the Professional category. Posts in the General Service category, funded both by the regular budget as well as from extrabudgetary resources total 138. Although the Advisory Committee understands that of this total only about 26 per cent of the General Service staff will be performing secretarial functions, the Advisory Committee nevertheless believes that this ratio, together with the overall ratio of General Service posts to Professional posts, is high.

IV.19. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in section II, paragraph 22, of its resolution 48/228 A, had requested the Secretary-General "to provide adequate posts for activities dealing with micro-economic issues through redeployment". However, the Advisory Committee notes that four additional posts (one D-2, one P-3 and two P-2/1) have been requested for the proposed new Division for Micro-economic and Social Policy Analysis. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 8.45 of the proposed programme budget that a total of 29 posts has been proposed for the new Division (20 Professional level and 9 General Service), including the 4 additional Professional level posts.

IV.20. As indicated in paragraph 8.45 of the proposed programme budget, the proposed new D-2 post would be for the Director of the newly created Division, while the additional P-3 and the two P-2/1 posts would be for research in relevant areas. The Advisory Committee requested and received additional information on the functions of these four posts. Under the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommends that the request for these four additional posts be approved.

IV.21. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 8.66 of the budget submission that an additional P-5 post has been requested for activities related mainly to issues of international migration in the context of follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development. The Advisory Committee trusts that this activity will be managed within the resources allocated and recommends that the P-5 post be provided through redeployment.

Section 9. Department for Development Support and Management Services

IV.22. As indicated in paragraph 9.1 of the proposed programme budget, the functions and responsibilities of the Department for Development Support and Management Services are defined in the report of the Secretary-General on the 1992-1993 revised estimates covering the second phase of restructuring of the Secretariat (A/C.5/47/88) and General Assembly resolution 47/212 B.

IV.23. The General Assembly, in its resolution 49/136 of 19 December 1994, decided to resume in March-April 1996 its fiftieth session in order to examine the question of public administration and development. The goal of the session will be to exchange experiences and review the activities of the United Nations in this field. The Department will be responsible for the preparation and substantive servicing of this resumed session.

IV.24. The Advisory Committee notes from table 9.1 of the budget submission that the regular budget resources amount to $25,832,700 for the biennium 1996-1997, whereas extrabudgetary resources total $182,992,000, with UNDP and UNFPA funding at $145,000,000. The requirements proposed under the regular budget for 1996-1997 for this section would amount to $24,539,200 before recosting, after a reduction of $1,422,200. This reduction represents a decrease from a total of 160 regular budget posts in the biennium 1994-1995 to 158 posts in the biennium 1996-1997. On the extrabudgetary side, 121 posts are forecast for 1996-1997, compared with 145 extrabudgetary posts in the biennium 1994-1995.

IV.25. The Advisory Committee notes from table 9.2 of the proposed programme budget that, although overall expenditure in the regular budget shows a decrease of $1,422,200, travel shows a growth of $52,000, for a total of $952,500 during the biennium 1996-1997. The Advisory Committee believes that the estimate for travel is on the high side and recommends that travel, especially for the collection of data and information, should be kept to a minimum given the availability of on-line information services.

IV.26. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 9.8 of the proposed programme budget that a Reconstruction and Development Support Unit is proposed to be established at Vienna. The Secretary-General proposes to transfer to the United Nations Office at Vienna the functions that have been carried out by the staff at Geneva; in this connection 17 posts are proposed to be transferred from Geneva to Vienna and New York, 3 posts are proposed to be abolished, and 1 additional P-3 post is proposed to be established at Vienna, resulting in a reduction of $1,422,200. In other words, the staffing resources proposed for the unit in Vienna comprise one P-5 post and six General Service posts in addition to a new P-3 post. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this request.

IV.27. Although paragraph 9.8 (e) of the proposed programme budget does not clearly indicate the extent to which procurement services are being carried out, the Advisory Committee notes that these services are being undertaken in the Department for Development Support and Management Services as well as in the Department for Administration and Management. The Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General review this situation with a view to merging the procurement services in the two Departments and ensuring appropriate coordination with other United Nations procurement services.

Section 10A. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

IV.28. As indicated in the introduction to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997, a major factor that influenced the programme budget proposals of UNCTAD for the biennium, in particular its trade-related subprogrammes, was the new mandates given to UNCTAD in 1994 by the Trade and Development Board, especially in conjunction with the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations and the establishment of the World Trade Organization on 1 January 1995.

IV.29. The Advisory Committee was informed by the representatives of the Secretary-General that while the primary function of the World Trade Organization is to act as an implementing instrument for the contractual obligations of its member States, the General Assembly, in paragraph 12 of its resolution 49/99 of 19 December 1994, reaffirmed UNCTAD's role "as the appropriate focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of development and interrelated issues in the areas of trade, finance, technology, investment, services and sustainable development".

IV.30. Resources for 1996-1997 are estimated at $110,593,700 before recosting and after a reduction of $2,986,100. The reduction is mainly owing to the proposed abolition of seven General Service posts that have become redundant as a result of technological improvements and automation.

IV.31. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 10A.7 (and the related table) of the proposed programme budget that several redeployments have been proposed between programmes. However, on inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that those redeployments had already taken place during the 1994-1995 biennium in the context of restructuring and that they were now being reported on an ex post facto basis. From the same paragraph, the Advisory Committee also notes that it is proposed to convert a temporary D-2 post dealing with transnational corporations activities to established status. The Advisory Committee recommends that this proposal be accepted.

IV.32. The Advisory Committee inquired and was informed that the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had not yet been appointed and that there has been an officer-in-charge for a long period. Moreover, as to the number of other high-level vacancies in UNCTAD, the Advisory Committee was informed that during the biennium 1994-1995, four D-2 posts, two D-1 posts and one P-5 post had been vacant, or had been filled for varying periods by staff at a lower level receiving special post allowances. The Advisory Committee is concerned at the eventual impact of such a situation on the programme of work. The Advisory Committee recommends that this situation be examined and rectified in accordance with the requirements of the programme of work of UNCTAD.

IV.33. The Advisory Committee recalls that in his statement on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in the report of the Second Committee on the sustainable development of small island developing States (A/C.5/49/52), the Secretary-General had indicated that the recommendations contained in the draft resolution would necessitate the establishment of up to seven posts, including one at the P-4 level for UNCTAD. At that time, the Advisory Committee had recommended that resources should be made available to the Secretariat to cover the 1995 costs for posts on a temporary basis and that the permanent establishment of the posts would be considered by the General Assembly in the context of the programme budget proposals for the biennium 1996-1997. On inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the question of the status of the P-4 post for UNCTAD had inadvertently been left out from the budget presentation on UNCTAD. Under the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommends that provision for the post be made from within existing resources.

IV.34. The Advisory Committee notes from the budget presentation that in addition to parliamentary documentation there is a proliferation of publications issued by UNCTAD, including a number of recurrent and non-recurrent publications and published material such as newsletters, bulletins, handbooks, fact sheets and pamphlets. The Advisory Committee reiterates its concern regarding the potential for duplication of activities, especially as regards published material, between UNCTAD and other entities within the United Nations.

IV.35. At the beginning of the biennium 1994-1995, the Advisory Committee recalls that it had been informed that UNCTAD had been pursuing efforts to rationalize its publication programme. 7/ At that time, the Advisory Committee had recommended that the results of that exercise, including economies of scale, be reported to the General Assembly. From the current budget submission, there is little to indicate that the publications programme has been evaluated, either to ascertain whether there is duplication of published material emanating from various areas within the United Nations, or that all the publications issued by UNCTAD are of sufficient intrinsic value based on readership demand and assessment, to warrant their continuation.

IV.36. The Advisory Committee received a communication from the President of the Trade and Development Board conveying the comments of the Working Party on the Medium-Term Plan and the Programme Budget (TD/B/EX(8)/L.6) on the programme budget proposals of UNCTAD for the biennium 1996-1997. From the information provided to it, the Advisory Committee notes that the conclusions and recommendations of the Working Party did not indicate an examination of the publications programme of UNCTAD. The Advisory Committee recommends that this matter be given urgent consideration and that the intergovernmental machinery of UNCTAD become actively involved in an in-depth review of UNCTAD's publications programme (see chap. I above).

IV.37. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 10A.13 of the budget submission that an amount of $109,100 has been estimated for miscellaneous requirements relating to the ninth session of the Conference scheduled to take place in South Africa in April 1996. In this connection, the Advisory Committee was informed that the major portion of the preparations for the session are being undertaken during the biennium 1994-1995.

Section 10B. International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT

IV.38. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 10B.1 of the submission that the proposed programme budget of ITC for the biennium 1996-1997 is estimated at $44,048,000 after recosting. Of this amount, $764,000 will be met from income, leaving an amount of $43,284,000 to be contributed in equal portions by the United Nations and GATT. The United Nations share of the proposed programme budget of ITC is therefore estimated at $21,642,000. The Advisory Committee was informed that discussions were going on between the secretariat of ITC and the United Nations and that any change in the current arrangement as a result of the creation of the World Trade Organization will be reported separately.

IV.39. The Advisory Committee was informed that the post of the Executive Director of ITC, which had been vacant at the beginning of the 1994-1995 biennium, had been filled at the Assistant Secretary-General level and that the related resources had been reflected in the budget estimates. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 10B.26 of the budget submission that requirements under subprogramme 10, Human resource development for trade promotion, include the proposed increase of $285,800 to provide for an additional P-4 post for activities related to the follow-up of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. The post would be located at Geneva and its cost would be offset by reductions under other objects of expenditure in the regular budget of the Centre. The Advisory Committee notes that table 10B.3 of the budget submission shows these objects of expenditure. The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the proposal for an additional P-4 post.

Section 11. United Nations Environment Programme

IV.40. The terms of reference and responsibilities of UNEP are outlined in paragraphs 11.1 to 11.4 of the proposed programme budget. As indicated in table 11.2 (1) of the budget submission, the resources requested amount to $8,903,500 before recosting and after a reduction of $784,900 relating to reduced requirements for the meetings of the Governing Council of UNEP, the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) and the proposed abolition of a P-5 post.

IV.41. With regard to the extrabudgetary resources shown in table 11.1 (2) of the proposed programme budget, in particular the amount of $105,000,000 shown for the Environment Fund, the Advisory Committee notes from the report on the eighteenth session of the Governing Council of UNEP (A/50/25, annex, decision 18/40), that the Council approved "a core appropriation of 90 million dollars for Fund programme activities in 1996-1997 with an additional supplementary appropriation of 15 million dollars if and when funds became available".

IV.42. From the same report of the UNEP Governing Council the Advisory Committee also notes the Council's endorsement of the Executive Director's efforts to limit documents for the Governing Council to a maximum of four pages (decision 18/45). The Advisory Committee commends this initiative. The Advisory Committee was informed that the Secretariat of the United Nations had endeavoured, to the best of its ability, to take this into account when preparing the budget for UNEP.

IV.43. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 11.6 of the proposed programme budget that administrative support previously provided for separately under the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and UNEP have been consolidated under section 26H, Administration, Nairobi. The resources amounting to $4,589,500 appropriated in 1994-1995 under programme support in section 12A, United Nations Environment Programme, are included under section 26H for 1996-1997. The Advisory Committee was informed that the P-5 post of Energy Expert proposed for abolition as indicated in paragraph 11.59 of the proposed programme budget had been vacant for the past four years.

Section 12. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)

IV.44. As indicated in table 12.2 of the proposed programme budget, the resources requested amount to $13,131,900 before recosting and after a reduction of $426,200 which is due to the fact that most of the preparatory work for Habitat II has been done during the biennium 1994-1995, and that the Conference is scheduled to take place in June 1996.

IV.45. With regard to the staffing establishment financed from extrabudgetary resources, the Advisory Committee notes that table 12.3 of the budget submission shows a total of 88 posts. However, the Advisory Committee points out that in the proposed budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for the biennium 1996-1997 (HS/C/15/8), the overall Foundation staffing table for the biennium 1996-1997 shows a total of 33 posts. The Advisory Committee sought information to reconcile these figures and was informed that the total of 88 posts included the 33 Foundation posts as well as posts for operational projects.

IV.46. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 12.11 of the budget submission that an estimated amount of $373,300 for general temporary assistance is proposed in connection with Habitat II to provide for a Coordinator at the D-1 level, an Operations Manager at the P-5 level, a Liaison Officer at the P-3 level, all for 8 work months, as well as 30 work months of Local level staff. The Advisory Committee believes that since Habitat II is scheduled to end in mid-June 1996, the proposed work months and consequently the proposed amount for general temporary assistance are on the high side and expects that economies will be realized.

Section 13. Crime control

IV.47. The total requirements proposed for 1996-1997 for this section would amount to $4,448,100 before recosting and after a reduction of $391,600, the latter amount representing a non-recurrent provision approved for holding the Ninth Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in 1995, partially offset by changes such as the proposed upgrading of the Chief of the Branch to the D-2 level and the establishment of two additional P-3 posts.

IV.48. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraphs 13.1 and 13.2 of the proposed programme budget that in accordance with the Statement of Principles and Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991 and the priority themes adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1992/22, it is proposed to upgrade the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch to a division. In this connection, the Advisory Committee notes that paragraph 32 of the Statement of Principles, set out in the annex to resolution 46/152, recommended to the Secretary-General that the upgrading should be effected as soon as possible, "bearing in mind the structure of the United Nations Office at Vienna".

IV.49. The Advisory Committee recalls that in paragraph IV.51 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, 2/ it had recommended that the Secretary-General define the role of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna regarding a number of specialized units at Vienna such as the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch and others and his supervisory functions in administrative and substantive terms. The Advisory Committee requested that the assessment include a review of the organizational location of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch at Vienna, taking into account the fact that UNDCP was also located at Vienna.

IV.50. Information regarding the role of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna *vis-à-vis* the present section of the proposed programme budget has not been provided in the budget submission for 1996-1997. While the Advisory Committee was provided with information with regard to the functions and responsibilities of the D-2 post, in the absence of information on the Director-General's supervisory role, it is difficult to evaluate whether upgrading a post to the D-2 level to continue to head this activity is justified. The Advisory Committee therefore recommends that a decision on this matter be deferred until the fiftieth session of the General Assembly pending additional clarification and justification to be provided at that time.

IV.51. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 13.18 of the proposed programme budget that it is proposed to establish two additional P-3 posts for activities relating to subprogramme 4, Crime prevention and criminal justice standards and norms. The Advisory Committee believes that the budget submission should have better defined the functions to be performed by each of the posts other than to strengthen the capacity of the Division. Under the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommends that the establishment of only one P-3 post be approved.

IV.52. The Advisory Committee notes that in paragraph 11 of its resolution 49/158 of 23 December 1994, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General further to strengthen cooperation between the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch and UNDCP. From the budget submission, the Advisory Committee could not determine whether any steps had been taken to address that request.

Section 14. International drug control

IV.53. The level of resources proposed amounts to $14,844,000 before recosting and after an increase of $150,100; two additional posts at the P-3 level are proposed, representing an increase from a total of 71 regular budget posts in the biennium 1994-1995 to 73 posts in the biennium 1996-1997.

IV.54. As shown in table 14.3 of the budget submission, a total of 208 posts are proposed to be financed from extrabudgetary resources during the biennium

1996-1997; the total number shown for the biennium 1994-1995 is also 208. The Advisory Committee noted that although the extrabudgetary resources for 1996-1997 had declined, the number of posts to be financed from these resources remained unchanged. The Advisory Committee was informed that since the budget proposals for the Fund of UNDCP were not available at the time of preparation of the 1996-1997 proposed programme budget, the staffing table as approved for 1994-1995 was used.

IV.55. The Advisory Committee trusts that the number of extrabudgetary posts for 1996-1997 will be commensurate with the level of extrabudgetary resources; the Advisory Committee will review this issue together with other aspects of the availability of extrabudgetary resources in the context of its examination of the Fund budget in autumn 1995.

IV.56. As indicated in paragraph 14.30 of the proposed programme budget, the two additional P-3 posts proposed to be established relate to subprogramme 8, International monitoring and assessment of changes in the scope of control of substances controlled under the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The Advisory Committee believes that the budget submission should have better defined the functions to be performed by each of the posts other than to strengthen the capacity of UNDCP. Under the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommends that the establishment of only one P-3 post be approved.

IV.57. The Advisory Committee points out that the budget submission does not contain sufficient justification for the proposed redeployment of posts. In the absence of this information, it is difficult to evaluate whether the redeployments are based on programme requirements or are for providing opportunities for career development of staff.

IV.58. The Advisory Committee notes from table 14.2 of the proposed programme budget that an amount of $1,279,600 after recosting has been proposed for travel. This amount is in addition to $4,837,200 for travel against extrabudgetary resources as shown in the same table. The Advisory Committee understands that detailed proposals for travel against extrabudgetary resources will be submitted in the context of the proposed 1996-1997 budget for the Fund. The Advisory Committee was provided with additional information pertaining to travel related to projects and funded through extrabudgetary resources. The Advisory Committee nevertheless believes that the total amount for travel as reflected in table 14.2 of the proposed programme budget (both regular budget and extrabudgetary resources) is high and should be kept under strict control.

IV.59. The Advisory Committee recommends that, to the extent possible, the narrative part of the proposed programme budget should clearly indicate the source of funding for various activities. For example, from the budget submission of this section, it is not clear what portion of the information activities are proposed to be funded from the regular budget compared with those to be funded from extrabudgetary resources.

PART V. REGIONAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

V.1. Part V of the proposed programme budget covers sections 15 to 20 comprising ECA ($78,422,700), the Regional Commissions New York Office ($1,102,100), ESCAP ($67,720,600), ECE ($50,792,700), ECLAC ($90,645,800), ESCWA ($38,457,400) and the regular programme of technical cooperation ($49,227,400).

V.2. In considering the budget proposals for the regional commissions, the Advisory Committee found a number of elements common in all of the budget submissions.

V.3. The Advisory Committee exchanged views with representatives of the Secretary-General on the organizational structures of the regional economic commissions in relation to the programme of work entrusted to the commissions. On the basis of the information supplied both orally and in writing, the Advisory Committee has concluded that, with the exception of ECE, there is considerable room for improvement in this regard. The situation is much clearer in ECE, where programme implementation is under the responsibility of programme managers in specific identifiable organizational units. In the other regional economic commissions the role of programme managers and their respective organizational units in programme implementation is not always clear. The complexity of the organizational structures of these commissions may lead to duplication of activities. In this connection, the Advisory Committee welcomes the steps that have or are being taken to streamline the organizational structures of the regional commissions. The Committee trusts that the mode of programme implementation chosen by any regional commission, such as the thematic approach followed by, for example, ESCAP, and the task force approach followed, for example, by ECA, will ensure that available staff and other resources are used in a cost-effective manner and that programme accountability is not adversely affected. Account should also be taken of regional programmes in specialized agencies to avoid duplication.

V.4. The Advisory Committee notes from the information provided to it that in a number of the regional commissions, some substantive activities are also proposed to be carried out under executive direction and management. The Advisory Committee believes that this practice should be reviewed since, if continued, there may be a possibility that the monitoring and supervisory role of executive direction and management could be compromised.

V.5. The Advisory Committee notes that redeployment of staff resources between the various subprogrammes has been proposed in all of the regional commissions. However, the Advisory Committee believes that the basis for these redeployments and the impact, if any, on the receiving as well as the releasing areas should have been explained in the proposed programme budget.

V.6. The Advisory Committee reiterates its recommendation that the publications programmes of all of the regional commissions be reviewed to assess, for each of them, such questions as the targeted audience, the number, frequency and practical value of the publications, based on readers' survey and market research, and to streamline the programmes with a view to avoiding duplication and promoting efficiency.

V.7. The Advisory Committee notes that the level of resources requested for programme support is exceptionally high in several of the regional commissions. Taking into account the use of modern technology and technological innovations such as in the area of office automation, the Advisory Committee believes that the requirements for programme support should have been considerably lower and that the resources thus released could have been diverted to substantive activities. As indicated in paragraph 17.7 of the proposed programme budget, the resources for administration, conference and general services for ECE are, unlike other regional commissions, not included under its own programme budget but under section 26E.

V.8. With regard to proposed estimates for travel, the Advisory Committee understands that part of the travel is to assist Governments in the collection of data and research requirements. However, the Advisory Committee reiterates its view that with the advent of technological innovations and the on-line availability of information, expenditures in this area could be considerably lowered.

V.9. The Advisory Committee was provided with information regarding the existing vacancy rates in each of the regional commissions. The Advisory Committee was informed that vacancy rates for staff in the Professional category during March 1995 were 26.92 per cent in ESCWA, 6.52 per cent in ESCAP, 9.48 per cent in ECE and 2.86 per cent in ECLAC. Although not recommending a reduction at this time, the Advisory Committee trusts that steps will be taken to regularize the staffing situation in ESCWA.

V.10. The Advisory Committee notes that there is a dramatic decline in the total extrabudgetary resources received by all of the regional commissions. The Advisory Committee understands that the decline in funding from UNDP is partly as a result of the trend to provide direct funding for national execution of projects. The Advisory Committee, however, recommends that the other causes for this decline should be identified and examined so that the factors contributing to it could be analysed. The Advisory Committee also cautions that extrabudgetary activities in the regional commissions, and particularly the number of staff involved in such activities, should be in such numbers as can be sustained by extrabudgetary resources.

V.11. During its consideration of the proposed programme budget, the Advisory Committee also took into consideration and welcomed the report submitted by the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services concerning the programme and administrative practices of the secretariats of ECA, ESCWA and ECE (A/49/891).

V.12. The Advisory Committee trusts that the regional commissions will continue to adhere strictly to General Assembly resolutions and decisions regarding the possible holding of sessions away from their established headquarters. The Advisory Committee notes that, with the exception of ECLAC and possibly ESCWA (both of which might experience constraints as regards adequate conference facilities), with the facilities available at ECE headquarters and the newly constructed facilities at ECA and ESCAP headquarters, it will not be necessary to hold meetings at venues other than their respective headquarters. The Advisory Committee recommends that the headquarters rule be applied to ECA and ESCAP and expects that the conference facilities of these two regional commissions will be used to the maximum extent. In the next proposed programme budget the Secretary-General should provide statistics with regard to the meeting programmes of all the regional economic commissions.

Section 15A. Economic Commission for Africa

V.13. The estimates for ECA are governed by a number of issues such as the reorganization of the secretariat as well as the revised programme of work as indicated in paragraph 15A.19 of the proposed programme budget. The Advisory Committee notes the reduction in the number of subprogrammes from 24 to 9, which took place in the 1994-1995 biennium.

V.14. The Advisory Committee notes that extrabudgetary resources for ECA have declined sharply. In this connection, the Advisory Committee draws attention to its comments in paragraph V.10 above and requests ECA to participate in the exercise to analyse the reasons for the decline.

V.15. As can be seen from tables 15A.1 and 15A.2 of the proposed programme budget, the total level of resources proposed is $70,999,900 before recosting and after an increase of $386,900, which signifies a resource growth rate of 0.5 per cent. This would include the establishment of three additional Professional level posts (one P-4 and two P-3) and three additional Local level posts. As indicated in paragraph 15A.22 (b) of the proposed programme budget, the establishment of the P-4 post is proposed through conversion of general temporary assistance; the post is required to strengthen the capacity of ECA to follow up on the implementation of the Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. As indicated in paragraph 15A.75 (a) of the proposed programme budget, the proposed two new posts of electrical engineer and mechanical engineer at the P-3 level and the three additional posts at the Local level are required to provide technical maintenance and support for the newly constructed conference facilities. The Advisory Committee does not object to the establishment of these posts.

V.16. With regard to the Advisory Committee's inquiry into staff costs for the Executive Secretary's post, the response provided to the Advisory Committee is reflected in chapter 1 above.

V.17. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 15A.6 of the proposed programme budget that in order to carry out its activities, which have become increasingly multisectoral in nature, ECA plans the use of task forces involving more than one organizational unit. Major redeployment of staff resources between subprogrammes has also been proposed "in order to reflect the changes in the new approach to programme implementation". However, the Advisory Committee believes that the rationale for the redeployment of staff between different units and divisions should have been better explained under each subheading and should have included information on the impact of the proposed moves on the receiving, and in some cases, on the releasing unit as well.

V.18. The Advisory Committee inquired as to what extent the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, contained in document A/49/891, had been taken into consideration by ECA in preparing the proposals and the extent to which the recommendations had been implemented, especially in view of the fact that the restructuring of the secretariat of ECA had taken place only recently.

V.19. The Advisory Committee noted the responses by ECA to the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services contained in the appendix to the annex to document A/49/891, especially with regard to centralizing the function of financial authorization for all funds in the Division of Administration in ECA. However, from the recent bulletin issued by the Secretary-General on the functions and organization of the secretariat of ECA (ST/SGB/Organization dated 20 April 1995), it is not clear how this function has been centralized.

V.20. With regard to the recommendation of the Office of Internal Oversight Services regarding appropriate training of administrative staff through assistance from Headquarters, the Advisory Committee trusts that adequate steps have been taken to address the issue. At the same time, the Advisory Committee recommends that ECA should develop its own long-term administrative capacity.

V.21. The Advisory Committee notes that under subprogramme 2, trade, regional economic cooperation and integration (paras. 15A.28 to 15A.35), provision has been made for the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs). In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls that in paragraph V.11 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for 1994-1995, 2/ it had requested clarification on the role of the secretariat of ECA and the MULPOCs in programme formulation and implementation, as well as the role of the Executive Secretary of ECA and the committees of intergovernmental experts of the MULPOCs in supervision of the centres. The Advisory Committee regrets that this information was not made clear in the current budget presentation.

V.22. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 15A.27 of the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997 that an amount of $942,400 which had been provided as a grant to the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) for 1994-1995 is proposed to be maintained at the same level for 1996-1997.

V.23. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 15A.50 of the budget submission that an amount of $204,800 has been proposed as a grant to the African Regional Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders; the same amount had been appropriated by the General Assembly for the 1994-1995 biennium in order to alleviate the financial difficulties being experienced by the Institute. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 49/156 of 23 December 1994, requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the Institute was provided with adequate funds, within the overall appropriation of the programme budget and from extrabudgetary resources, and to submit proposals for any necessary additional funding of the Institute. The Advisory Committee also recalls General Assembly decision 49/480 of 6 April 1995, in which the Assembly decided that future requests for funding for regional institutes should be considered only on the basis of criteria proposed by the Secretary-General and approved by the General Assembly to determine if such institutes should be funded from the regular budget. The Advisory Committee was informed that pending submission to and approval by the General Assembly of the report on the criteria in that regard, the amount of $204,800 had been included in the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997.

Section 15B. Regional Commissions New York Office

V.24. The activities of the Regional Commissions New York Office are reflected in paragraphs 15B.1 and 15B.2 of the proposed programme budget. The Advisory Committee was informed that there was no particular significance in attaching that section of the budget with section 15A. The resource requirements, which are proposed to be kept at the maintenance level, provide for three posts in the Professional category and above and three General Service posts.

V.25. An estimate of $34,800 before recosting has been shown for official travel of staff. However, as in the previous bienniums, the Advisory Committee understands that this estimate does not cover the entire travel programme of the office, since the cost of some travel is underwritten, from time to time, by one or several of the regional commissions. The Advisory Committee trusts that care will be taken to ensure that travel of staff from this office will not duplicate travel being undertaken by officials of the regional commissions.

Section 16. Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific

V.26. As can be seen from tables 16.1 and 16.2 of the proposed programme budget, the total level of resources proposed is $61,565,400 after an increase of $287,000, which signifies a resource growth rate of 0.4 per cent.

V.27. As indicated in paragraph 16.37 of the proposed programme budget, it is proposed to establish one P-5 post for the Chief, Rural Development Section, "to manage, develop and coordinate the programme of work relating to regional rural poverty alleviation, sustainable agriculture and rural development". As indicated in paragraph 16.43 of the proposed programme budget, it is proposed to convert a temporary P-3 post to an established post dealing with the implementation of the New Delhi action plan on infrastructure development in Asia and the Pacific, given the continuing nature of the plan. As indicated in paragraphs 16.56 and 16.57 of the proposed programme budget, it is proposed to establish one P-4 post for the follow-up to the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; provision in the amount of $53,400 for general temporary assistance, which had been made for this purpose in 1995, would be discontinued. A P-2 post for a building management officer has also been requested; the Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 16.61 of the proposed programme budget that this has been proposed as a result of the reclassification exercise carried out in ESCAP. The Advisory Committee recommends that the proposal to establish these four posts be approved.

V.28. The Advisory Committee notes that ESCAP has chosen the thematic approach to its programme of work and envisages changes in the secretariat structure in support of this orientation. The Advisory Committee was informed that the secretariat structure would be reviewed by the Commission in 1997 and trusts that the comments by the Advisory Committee on this question in paragraph V.3 above will be taken into account.

V.29. With regard to the publications programme of ESCAP, the Advisory Committee believes that the number of publications is excessive. The Advisory Committee draws attention to paragraph V.6 and chapter I above.

Section 17. Economic Commission for Europe

V.30. As indicated in table 17.1 of the proposed programme budget the overall level of resources proposed for ECE amounts to $47,719,400 before recosting and after an increase of $340,100, or 0.7 per cent resulting mainly from the proposal for two additional posts in the Professional category (P-5 and P-3).

V.31. With regard to the establishment of the additional posts, the Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 17.45 of the proposed programme budget that the P-5 post is requested to strengthen the capacity of ECE to undertake economic analysis in countries with economies in transition; the Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 17.31 of the proposed programme budget that it is proposed to establish an additional P-3 level post for subprogramme 3, Statistics, in view of the additional workload generated by the increase in ECE membership. The Advisory Committee recommends that these two additional posts be approved.

V.32. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 17.2 of the proposed programme budget that ECE membership has increased from 34 to 55 within a relatively short period of time; the economies of at least half of the new members are in transition, bringing new needs and tasks to ECE.

V.33. As indicated in table 17.1 (2), it appears that, as with the other regional commissions, extrabudgetary resources for ECE have also declined, especially from sources such as UNDP. However, the Advisory Committee was informed that, after the preparation of the proposed programme budget, it was learned that ECE would receive additional extrabudgetary resources from UNDP in an amount of approximately $3 million.

V.34. The Advisory Committee noted the responses by ECE to the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services relating to ECE contained in the appendix to the annex to document A/49/891. The Advisory Committee was also informed by the representatives of ECE that to the extent possible, the recommendations made by the Office of Internal Oversight Services had been implemented.

Section 18. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

V.35. As indicated in table 18.1 of the proposed programme budget, the resources proposed amount to $77,330,500 before recosting and after a reduction of $1,648,900. The reduction is the net effect of a decrease in rental estimates, owing to lease renegotiation, and a reduction of office space in Mexico City, offset by a proposal to establish an additional P-4 post. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraphs 18.74 and 18.75 of the proposed programme budget that the establishment of this P-4 post is proposed for the follow-up of the activities related to the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and that the provision of $43,800 for general temporary assistance that had been made in 1995 would be discontinued. The Advisory Committee recommends that this proposal be accepted.

V.36. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 18.2 of the proposed programme budget that ECLAC's programme of work was approved by the Commission at its twenty-fifth session in April 1994. The Advisory Committee was informed that ECLAC proposed to use a sectoral approach with interdisciplinary inputs to accomplish its programme of work; close coordination between divisions is also envisaged.

V.37. The Advisory Committee was also informed that, during the current biennium, within the allocated resources, ECLAC increased its output in such areas as its publications programme and technical cooperation missions by as much as 40 to 50 per cent. Its fellowships had increased from 1,000 to 3,000. The Advisory Committee understands that these results were due, in part, to the availability of modern technology and automation.

V.38. As can be observed from paragraphs 18.87 to 18.90 of the budget submission, considerable amounts have been proposed for data-processing services and equipment as well as for other electronic data-processing services and equipment for office automation. As indicated in the general comments above, the Advisory Committee believes that the increased use of automation and technology should not only reflect an increase in output but also reflect a decrease in staff and other support resources.

V.39. ECLAC is the only regional commission with somewhat limited conference facilities so the estimated requirements of $207,700 relating to rental of conference facilities as shown in paragraph 18.11 of the proposed programme budget are justified. However, the Advisory Committee trusts that the number of meetings as well as attendance at those meetings will be kept under review.

Section 19. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

V.40. The Advisory Committee understands that the major impediment confronting ESCWA has been the frequent relocation of its secretariat. In 1982 it was relocated from Beirut to Baghdad but in 1991, in view of the crisis in the region, it was moved to Amman. The Advisory Committee was informed that the moves had had a considerable impact on its human resources and had resulted in a high vacancy rate during the 1994-1995 biennium.

V.41. The Advisory Committee was informed that pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1994/43, there was a possibility that the ESCWA secretariat would be moved to Beirut once again. A statement of programme budget implications (E/1994/50/Add.2) had been submitted by the Secretary-General to the Council in accordance with rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Council. The Advisory Committee notes from the Secretary-General's statement that it was estimated that the cost of moving the secretariat from Amman to Beirut would amount to $4.5 million and that annual staff costs would be approximately $1 million higher in Beirut. The Advisory Committee further notes that the estimates were preliminary and would be refined on the basis of the outcome of the discussions between the Secretary-General and the Government of Lebanon. No resources for this purpose have been included in the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997 since, as the Advisory Committee understands, consultations with the Government of Lebanon were still under way at the time of preparing the present report. The Advisory Committee recommends that upon the conclusion of these consultations, the Secretary-General address, if necessary, the administrative and budgetary implications of any move in accordance with existing procedures.

V.42. As indicated in paragraphs 19.2 and 19.3 of the proposed programme budget, in view of the rapid developments in the region, ESCWA has redirected the focus of its programme and restructured and streamlined its activities, moving from a sectoral approach with 15 subprogrammes to 5 thematic subprogrammes. This has also entailed restructuring of its nine organizational divisions into seven divisions.

V.43. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 19.8 of the proposed programme budget that several committees of the Commission provide overall direction to the work of the secretariat. The Advisory Committee was informed that at its eighteenth session, from 22 to 25 May 1995, ESCWA had recommended to the Economic and Social Council that it approve the establishment of two additional intergovernmental committees, namely the Committee on Energy and the Committee on Water Resources. The Advisory Committee was also informed that a detailed document containing the work programme and priorities of ESCWA had been submitted to the Commission. The Advisory Committee believes that since the narrative portion of the proposed programme budget has a bearing on the resources requested, the present budget submission could have been more specific.

V.44. The resources requested amount to $35,758,400 before recosting and after an increase of $545,300 reflecting a resource growth rate of 1.5 per cent. The increase of $545,300 is the net result of decreases and increases under various objects of expenditure, as indicated in table 19.2 of the proposed programme budget. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 19.6 that the increase under staff costs is accounted for by the delayed impact of five reclassifications approved in the 1994-1995 biennium and the proposal to reclassify a Local level post to the Professional category in 1996-1997. The Advisory Committee has no objection to the proposed reclassification.

Section 20. Regular programme of technical cooperation

V.45. As indicated in paragraph 20.1 of the proposed programme budget, the regular programme of technical cooperation complements assistance available to developing countries under other programmes. Annual reports on the programme are submitted as appropriate to the Executive Board of UNDP. Details of activities under this section and the distribution of funding are described in paragraphs 20.2 to 20.9 of the budget submission. The three main types of technical cooperation are short-term advisory services, field projects and training. The resources requested amount to $44,814,700 before recosting.

V.46. In considering this section of the budget submission, the Advisory Committee notes that since statistics on the utilization of the resources were not available, it was difficult to evaluate to what extent the requirements were justified. For this reason, the Advisory Committee recommends that monitoring, evaluation and control of these resources be strengthened in each of the implementing and executing entities responsible for a particular technical cooperation activity. The amounts allocated to each entity of the United Nations, as indicated in table 20.2 of the proposed programme budget, could also be cross-referenced in the relevant sections of the budget.

V.47. The Advisory Committee transmits the estimates under section 20 to the General Assembly for appropriate action.

PART VI. HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

VI.1. The Secretary-General's estimate for part VI, Human rights and humanitarian affairs, amounts to $145,686,800, comprising $49,717,700 for section 21, Human rights, $52,057,200 for section 22, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, $23,611,700 for section 23, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, and $20,300,200 for section 24, Department of Humanitarian Affairs.

Section 21. Human rights

VI.2. The Secretary-General proposes a staffing table of 160 regular budget established posts (101 Professional and 59 General Service posts) for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and for the Centre for Human Rights for 1996-1997. The Advisory Committee notes from table 21.3 and paragraphs 21.23 and 21.34 that the proposal includes: (a) the establishment of a new P-5 post to strengthen the administrative function of the Centre, taking into account the recommendation of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the programme and administrative practices of the Centre (A/49/892, annex, para. 26(a)); (b) the establishment of a new P-3 post to assist the High Commissioner; (c) the conversion of 21 temporary regular budget posts approved for 1994-1995 to the category of established regular budget posts, including the USG post of the High Commissioner, four Professional posts and four General Service posts for the Office of the High Commissioner; and (d) the redeployment and downgrading of a D-2 post from the High Commissioner's Office to the Centre to head the International Instruments Branch at the D-1 level.

VI.3. The Advisory Committee notes from table 21.1 (2) that extrabudgetary resources expected to be available for 1996-1997 amount to $17,733,600. Total extrabudgetary posts are expected to increase from six to eight. The Advisory Committee notes, as indicated in paragraph 25 of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (A/49/892, annex), that the Centre has been the subject of reports by the external auditors, in which weaknesses and administrative shortcomings have been pointed out. The Advisory Committee believes that the financial monitoring and control of extrabudgetary resources should also be strengthened, in addition to those measures recommended by the Office of Internal Oversight Services to improve the administrative and financial management functioning of the Centre.

VI.4. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 35 of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services that a reappraisal and restructuring of the Centre's work programme is urgently needed. As indicated in paragraph 10 of the report, the programme of work for 1994-1995 remains much the same as that for 1992-1993, despite the fact that the resource level has been increased by 20 per cent. With regard to the proposed programme of work for 1996-1997, upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Centre had started a reappraisal of its programme of work aimed at improving its effectiveness and efficiency, along the lines suggested by the Office of Internal Oversight Services; furthermore, the High Commissioner had engaged a consultant firm in order to assist him in the restructuring exercise. It was indicated that, taking into account the three-month period needed for the external consultants to complete their task, the restructuring exercise was expected to be finalized by the end of October 1995. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraphs 14 and 35 of the report that such a task is essential for the determination of the level of additional resources required by the Centre in 1996-1997.

VI.5. The Advisory Committee notes that, as indicated in paragraphs 11 and 16 of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, a growing proportion of the Centre's staff resources are involved in secretariat servicing at the expense of research and technical analysis, which often is undertaken by consultants and short-term experts. From the proposed programme of work as contained in section 21 of the document, the Advisory Committee concludes that the Centre's proposed programme for 1996-1997 continues to be structured to service primarily the human rights organs (i.e., the Commission on Human Rights, the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, treaty bodies and special rapporteurs, etc.).

VI.6. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 23 of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services that the Centre does not have any central mechanism for overall programme oversight at the levels of formulation, implementation and coordination and that each of the five branches and sections of the Centre operate as a quasi-autonomous unit. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was furnished with the organization chart of the Centre and informed that the question of the reorganization of the Centre's secretariat would be addressed on the basis of the results of the restructuring of the work programme of the Centre.

VI.7. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 31 of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services that, as of June 1994, there were 116 interns in the Centre, many of them participating in the implementation of sensitive and confidential work of the Centre. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that as at 3 July 1995 there were 60 interns currently deployed in the Centre. The Advisory Committee shares the concern expressed in the report that the internship programme should be properly managed and coordinated centrally by the United Nations Office at Geneva, and in full compliance with the rules and conditions governing United Nations internships.

VI.8. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraphs 32 and 34 of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services that the issue of clarifying the respective responsibilities of the High Commissioner and those of the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights has been addressed in the report and that an attempt has been made to describe their respective functions, with the aim of avoiding overlapping responsibilities (A/49/892, annex, appendix II). The Advisory Committee requested but did not receive a reply as to how the respective functions described in the report were being implemented.

VI.9. With regard to the issue of management of technical cooperation projects, the Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 9 of appendix I to the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services that the Centre still has not addressed the main Board of Auditors' observations of April 1994. The Advisory Committee notes that a growing component of the programme of work of the Centre is advisory services and technical cooperation (subprogramme 3). However, the Advisory Committee notes from paragraphs 21 and 39 of the report that the Centre lacks the technical capacity to provide quality advice to Governments and to implement projects in this area. Section 21 of the proposed programme budget does not identify clearly the resources required to address these shortcomings in 1996-1997. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that a reorganization of the Advisory Services and Technical Assistance Branch is currently under way to redefine the objectives, priorities and programme of work for the Branch; new guidelines have been developed for project formulation as well as a manual for project management monitoring and evaluation; and, in addition, the Centre has initiated a training programme for its staff.

VI.10. As regards the publications programme of the Centre, the Advisory Committee believes that there is a considerable overproduction of publications, both recurrent and non-recurrent. Furthermore, the production and distribution costs of the publications are not clearly identified in section 21 of the proposed programme budget. The Advisory Committee notes that only the requirements for external printing ($421,800) of the publications programme are identified in paragraph 21.39. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Centre re-examine, as a matter of priority and in conjunction with the restructuring of its programme of work, its publications programme for the purpose of ensuring that all publications fulfil an identifiable need and are produced in a cost-effective manner.

VI.11. With regard to issues of personnel management, the Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 13 of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services that serious weaknesses have been pointed out in this critical area. The Advisory Committee agrees with the recommendation in paragraph 4 of the appendix to the report that vacant posts of chiefs of branches and sections at the Centre should not be filled until the restructuring exercise is completed, the needs have been assessed and the skill profiles determined. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the filling of the P-5 and D-1 vacant posts at the Centre had been frozen until the reappraisal and reorganization of its programme of work was completed. Under the circumstances, the Advisory Committee believes that, with the exception of the USG post of the High Commissioner, one P-5 and two General Service posts in the Office of the High Commissioner, the decision to convert the remaining 17 temporary posts, approved in 1994-1995, into established posts in 1996-1997 should be deferred until the results of the restructuring of the programme of work and identification of priorities be completed. With regard to the proposal for two new established posts in 1996-1997, the Advisory Committee does not agree with the establishment of the new P-3 post, but recommends the establishment of the new P-5 post to discharge all the functions of an administrative executive officer for the reasons stressed in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

Section 22. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

VI.12. As indicated in paragraph 22.22, in accordance with article 20 of the statute of UNHCR, no expenditure other than administrative expenditure relating to the functioning of the Office of the High Commissioner is borne by the budget of the United Nations and all other activities of the High Commissioner are financed by voluntary contributions. Accordingly, for the biennium 1996-1997, the Secretary-General proposes a continuation of the current arrangements whereby the regular budget would finance a staffing table of 244 regular budget established posts (89 Professional posts and 155 General Service posts).

VI.13. The Advisory Committee notes from table 22.1 (2) of the proposed programme budget that resources from voluntary contributions are expected to amount to $2,416,885,800 for the biennium 1996-1997. The Advisory Committee will consider the High Commissioner's proposed programme and budget financed from voluntary funds for 1996 during its fall session starting in September 1995.

VI.14. The Advisory Committee recalls that in section II, paragraph 36, of its resolution 48/228 A, the General Assembly requested "the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to review the existing arrangements for regular budget and extrabudgetary funding for the Office of the

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, taking fully into account the increased demand upon the Office since 1989, and, if necessary, to submit proposals to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session". In this regard, representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that a review of the existing arrangements would be carried out in 1996 and the results will be communicated to the General Assembly

Section 23. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

VI.15. As indicated in paragraphs 23.2 and 23.3 of the proposed programme budget, UNRWA's overall strategy for the biennium 1996-1997 will focus on preparing for the eventual hand-over of its installations, services and programmes to the Palestinian authorities, in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, while maintaining provision of services to eligible Palestine refugees living in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Extrabudgetary resources for UNRWA's operational projects are estimated at $894,987,000 for 1996-1997.

VI.16. With regard to the implementation of the Secretary-General's decision to move the headquarters of the agency from Vienna to the Gaza Strip, which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/35 A of 9 December 1994, the Advisory Committee was informed that, as planned, the move had already begun. It was indicated that the Commissioner-General had opened his office at Gaza in November 1994. The phased relocation schedule envisaged the move of the central administration (Commissioner-General's office and related units, Personnel Administration and Legal) to interim accommodations in December 1995; subsequently, on the assumption that the headquarters building at Gaza would be ready by March 1996, the Finance Department would relocate in March 1996. The budget for the move was estimated at $13.5 million. As of 7 June, the Advisory Committee was informed that sufficient funds had not been received for the move. In order to start the process, it was mentioned that funds must be available to meet the cost of construction of the headquarters building at Gaza. If funds are not made available, the phased relocation plan would have to be changed accordingly.

VI.17. No changes are proposed in the number of established posts for 1996-1997 under the regular budget (82 Professional posts and above and 10 General Service posts). The Advisory Committee was informed that the move would create some operational difficulties to the Agency, as it was expected that a number of international staff at Vienna would not relocate to Gaza and they would have to be replaced. The Advisory Committee was furnished with a provisional distribution of 92 posts to be funded from the regular budget in 1996-1997, as follows: 40 in Gaza, 9 in Amman, 3 in New York and 40 in field offices. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 23.9 and table 23.3 that currently UNRWA also employs 82 internationally recruited staff and 20,600 local staff paid from project funds. The Advisory Committee was informed that nearly all local staff were Palestinians, of whom 70 per cent were employed in education services (mostly as teachers), 16 per cent in health services and 6 per cent in common and operational services. In addition, there were 16 staff members on loan, 10 from UNESCO and 6 from WHO, and 1 staff member funded by the Government of Switzerland.

VI.18. The Advisory Committee requests the Commissioner-General of UNRWA to prepare a progress report on the move of UNRWA headquarters for the consideration of the Advisory Commission on UNRWA. The Advisory Committee will examine this report in September 1995, in conjunction with its examination of the administrative and support cost budget for UNRWA for 1996-1997. The Advisory Committee will report to the Advisory Commission on UNRWA accordingly.

Section 24. Department of Humanitarian Affairs

VI.19. The Secretary-General proposes a staffing table of 75 regular budget established posts for the Department of Humanitarian Affairs for 1996-1997, which includes the establishment of three new posts (one P-5 and one P-3 in New York, and one P-5 in Geneva). As indicated in paragraphs 24.5, 24.35 and 24.38, the proposed new P-5 and P-3 posts in New York are required for the Complex Emergency Division (the P-5 post as Chief of the Asia, Europe and Latin America Section and the P-3 post to assist the Chief of the Africa I Section, which deals with emergencies in the countries of West, Central and southern Africa). The new P-5 post in Geneva is proposed to head the Complex Emergency Support Unit. The Advisory Committee was informed that this unit, although located at Geneva, functions as an integral part of the Complex Emergency Division in New York.

VI.20. The Advisory Committee notes from table 24.3 that the Department plans to add 7 temporary extrabudgetary posts (5 Professional posts and 2 General Service posts) for a total of 228 temporary extrabudgetary posts (102 Professional posts and 126 General Service and other category posts) for the biennium 1996-1997. In this regard, the Advisory Committee was informed that, in the light of the current core functions of the Department, the Department planned to undertake a management study in 1995 on which extrabudgetary posts should be transferred to the regular budget of the Department during the next biennium.

VI.21. The Advisory Committee was provided with a chart of the reorganized Department, showing the distribution of posts, both regular and extrabudgetary, for all units of the Department. The Advisory Committee notes the high number of extrabudgetary posts, some of them at the D-1 and D-2 levels, assigned to the regular work programme of the Department, particularly in Geneva. The Advisory Committee also notes that there is a high ratio of General Service to Professional staff among the extrabudgetary posts in Geneva (e.g., the Disaster Reduction Division and the Relief Coordination Branch). The Advisory Committee intends to revert to the issue of whether to fund a larger proportion of core functions of the Department through the regular budget, in the light of the results of the management study when these become available and the proposals that the Secretary-General may wish to make in that regard.

VI.22. The Advisory Committee understands that the management study will be under way in September 1995. In this regard, the Advisory Committee is of the view that the study should also focus on the formulation of a financial strategy for the work programme of the Department and that the study should be carried out in consultation with the Department of Administration and Management, with the purpose of rationalizing the use of resources. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee believes that the study should aim at streamlining the grade structure of the Department and delineating the chain of command of the various units of the Department to enhance coordination. The Advisory Committee believes that, pending the completion of the study, the proposal for new posts should not be approved and that the total staffing resources of the Department should be re-examined as soon as the results of the study are submitted to the General Assembly.

VI.23. As indicated in table 24.1 of the proposed programme budget, extrabudgetary resources for the Department are estimated at $144,684,500. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Department was responsible for the administration of about 150 sub-accounts for trust funds, which entailed a heavy workload for the Department. The trust funds under the responsibility of the Geneva Office are administered by the Administrative and Financial Unit of the Geneva Office. The Advisory Committee was informed that, in order to consolidate activities and be close to substantive units of the Department in New York, the Department might transfer the responsibility for the financial administration of the operational trust funds from Geneva to New York.

VI.24. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 24.31, 2 (c) (ii) that the Department maintains permanent stocks of basic relief goods at a warehouse at Pisa, Italy, and that negotiations will be pursued with organizations of the United Nations system for the expansion of stockpiled supplies. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that this warehouse, which is totally financed from voluntary contributions, was inherited from UNDRO. In this regard, the Advisory Committee reiterates its view that the primary role of the Department is to coordinate emergency humanitarian assistance in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991.

PART VII. PUBLIC INFORMATION

Section 25. Public information

VII.1. The estimate for part VII amounts to $137,911,700 for 1996-1997 and covers section 25, Public information. As shown in table 25.1 of the proposed programme budget, the estimate amounts to $127,371,200 before recosting and after a reduction of $4,071,400, which reflects reduced requirements mainly at the Department of Public Information headquarters, and for special conferences.

VII.2. As shown in table 25.1(2), for 1996-1997, extrabudgetary resources expected to be available to the Department are projected at $4,763,100, including $2,700,000 under the Development Forum Trust Fund. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 24 of the report of the Secretary-General on the review of publications of the Department (A/AC.198/1995/3), that the Department publishes a bi-monthly procurement publication, entitled Development Business, which serves the needs of the Organization, Member States, international development banks and others interested in international bidding on economic development projects funded by the United Nations. The Advisory Committee was informed that revenue from the publication, which was sold by subscription only, covered its production costs entirely and produces net revenue to the Organization, estimated at $363,071 in 1994-1995. Net revenue from Development Business was recorded as miscellaneous income in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations. In that connection, the Advisory Committee was informed of the proposal, contained in document A/C.5/48/10, paragraphs 49 and 59, to treat net revenues from the sale of publications as additional provisions in the regular budget to cover what was termed "product development" activities, relating to the preparation and promotion of new publications and assistance to author departments. The Advisory Committee does not endorse this proposal and sees no reason to change the present accounting policy.

VII.3. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraphs 25.5, 25.7 and 25.17 that the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997 reflects a streamlined departmental structure. As shown in table 25.3, the Secretary-General proposes 822 established posts under the regular budget (290 Professional, 268 General Service, 214 Local level and 50 National Professional Officer posts), reflecting the reduction of 13 Professional posts, and 2 General Service posts (1 General Service post to be abolished and another to be returned to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General) and the conversion of 10 Local level posts to the National Professional Officer category.

VII.4. The Department's temporary posts expected to be available under extrabudgetary resources include 39 posts (1 P-4, 1 P-3, 10 General Service posts, and 27 Local level posts funded from ad hoc government contributions), reflecting a reduction of 5 extrabudgetary posts from those available in 1994-1995 (1 P-5 in support of peace-keeping operations, 1 P-5 funded from the Trust Fund for the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebrations, 1 P-4 funded from the Trust Fund for Information Support for Africa Recovery and Development, and 1 P-4 and 1 General Service post funded from the Trust Fund for International Cooperation and Development).

VII.5. The Advisory Committee notes that the posts assigned to the activities related to the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations will be available for reassignment to the programme of work of the Department upon conclusion of the activities of the fiftieth anniversary. In this regard, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General provide additional information on the functional responsibilities of these posts foreseen for 1996-1997.

VII.6. The Advisory Committee has no objection to the proposal to convert 10 Local level posts to the National Professional Officer category at the United Nations information centres. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in section IV.B of its resolution 49/223 of 23 December 1994, agreed to the revised criteria for the employment of National Professional Officers outlined in annex VI to the report of the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) for the year 1994. 8/ The Advisory Committee trusts that the employment of National Professional Officers at the United Nations information centres will be carried out in strict compliance with the revised ICSC's system-wide criteria for employment of these officers, as approved by the Assembly.

VII.7. The Advisory Committee points out that the estimate for information materials and services under subprogramme 1, Promotional services, is obscure and difficult to ascertain in the document. The Advisory Committee accordingly reiterates its view that the format and presentation of the Public Information Section of the budget should provide budgetary information that facilitates the understanding of the distribution of resources among the three subprogrammes of the Department.

VII.8. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 49/38 B of 9 December 1994, requested "the management of the Department of Public Information to review its publications and proposals for publications to ensure that all publications fulfil an identifiable need, that they do not duplicate other publications inside or outside the United Nations system and that they are produced in a cost-effective manner". The Advisory Committee notes that the information contained in document A/AC.198/1995/3 of 22 March 1995, prepared by the Department in response to that request, has only partially addressed the request of the Assembly. In the view of the Advisory Committee, further analysis is needed to ascertain to what extent a number of the publications could be merged and/or produced more economically by avoiding redundant or duplicative material.

VII.9. Paragraphs 6 to 28 of document A/AC.198/1995/3 describe the recurrent publications of the Department, and annex I to the report lists the non-recurrent published material during 1994. The Advisory Committee is not convinced that, as mentioned in paragraph 3 of document A/AC.198/1995/3, "publications are produced in accordance with the highest possible standards of quality and cost-effectiveness" or that the materials are not duplicating and reproducing information already available to Member States elsewhere. The Advisory Committee recommends that publications be thoroughly evaluated to ensure that the objectives to be achieved by their publication are met in a cost-effective manner. In this connection, the Advisory Committee calls for closer collaboration between the Department of Public Information and the Office of Conference and Support Services.

VII.10. The Advisory Committee notes that the amount of $142,674,800 requested for 1996-1997 under section 25 ($137,911,700 under the regular budget and $4,763,100 under extrabudgetary resources) does not represent the total resources allocated to public information activities. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was furnished with the following table showing a breakdown of resources estimated at $6,446,700 (at current rates) for information activities under other sections of the budget for 1996-1997:

Section	Number of posts Profes-sional	 General Service	Total costs (Thousands of dollars)
2. Political affairs	4	4 a/	1 455.6
7B. Africa: critical economic situation, recovery and development	2	2	1 012.4
10A. UNCTAD	2	2 b/	942.2
11. UNEP	2	1	508.0
15. ECA	3	2	683.3
16. ESCAP	2	4	596.6
18. ECLAC	1	4	766.8
19. ESCWA	1	2	248.0
23. UNRWA	1		233.8
Total	18	21	6 446.7

a/ Plus 36 General Service work-months under general temporary assistance.

b/ Includes 12 work-months of 1 P-5 and 12 work-months of 1 P-4.

VII.11. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 37 of document A/AC.198/1995/3 that the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information was appointed Chairman of the Publications Board in 1994. As indicated in paragraph 5 of the report of the Secretary-General on publications policy of the United Nations (A/C.5/48/10, dated 13 October 1993): "A United Nations publication has been defined as any written material issued by or for the United Nations under the authority of the Publications Board." Furthermore, as indicated in paragraph 9 of the same document, given the rapid advances in technology, publications cover both printed matter and "non-print" materials, including the reproduction and dissemination of written materials in machine-readable form, such as CD-ROM.

VII.12. The Advisory Committee welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on publications policy and recommends that the General Assembly endorse the proposals in the report, with the exception of the treatment of revenue from the sale of publications, as mentioned in paragraph VII.2 above.

VII.13. With regard to the role of the Publications Board and its working committees and working groups (see A/C.5/48/10, para. 20), the Advisory Committee was informed that the Publications Board was not yet fully functional, as meetings had not been attended by Board members on a regular basis. The Advisory Committee expects that the Publications Board and its working groups will, as a matter of urgency, begin to discharge effectively their respective mandates.

VII.14. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 14 of document A/C.5/48/10 that "the regular and systematic review by intergovernmental bodies of the recurrent publications for which they are responsible would serve to ensure that such publications have valid mandates and meet the criteria set out by the General Assembly" in resolution 38/32 E of 25 November 1983. The Advisory Committee believes that every departmental publication programme submitted for review by intergovernmental bodies should be specific with regard to titles, languages, number of copies, intended date of release and costs. The Advisory Committee believes that such reviews have rarely taken place in the regional commissions (see chap. I for more information on this subject).

VII.15. The Secretary-General states in paragraph 28 of his report (A/C.5/48/10) that "the printing plants at the United Nations Headquarters, at the United Nations Office at Geneva and at the regional commissions have equipment and skilled staff capable of producing almost all United Nations publications, although sometimes external contract services are needed if the publication has specialized requirements or must be produced within short deadlines".

VII.16. The Advisory Committee notes that, contrary to the stated policy, provisions for external printing continue to be requested for 1996-1997 for items that do not appear to have highly specialized requirements or need to be produced within tight deadlines. For example, in paragraph 25.45 of the proposed programme budget, an amount of $1,251,100 is requested for contractual services of the Library and Publication Division, which includes $454,500 for external printing requirements of such recurrent publications as the UN Chronicle, the annual report of the Secretary-General, Basic Facts about the United Nations and United Nations in Brief; in paragraph 25.55 (b), $655,400 is requested for external printing of information materials prepared by the Promotion and Public Services Division; and, in paragraph 25.105 (b), an amount of $106,200 is requested for external printing of information materials for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) to be held at Istanbul in 1996. The Advisory Committee reiterates its view that substantial savings could be made if such printing services were to be performed internally. The Advisory Committee recommends that the present internal printing capacity of the Organization be carefully assessed to determine what additional steps should be taken to strengthen its capacity, if necessary.

VII.17. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 25.45 (c) that an amount of $527,000 is estimated for certain specialized, on-line, database library services that cannot be carried out economically by the United Nations, such as LEXIS, NEXIS and DIALOG. The Advisory Committee recommends that, in the context of the policy stated in paragraph 43 of document A/C.5/48/10, the Department should explore fully the possibility of generating revenues from the sale of on-line United Nations database information services, as well as from the production and sale of recurrent publications, such as the Yearbook of the United Nations, in CD-ROM format.

VII.18. The Advisory Committee notes from table 25.21(2) of the proposed programme budget that extrabudgetary resources for the information centres ($1,472,000) are not expected to increase in 1996-1997 as compared with 1994-1995 and, in fact, show a decline compared with extrabudgetary expenditure in 1992-1993 ($1,525,400); furthermore, no funds are budgeted for operational projects under regular or under extrabudgetary resources. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 25.99(a) that provision of $3,633,700 is requested for rental and maintenance of premises, including utilities, for those information centres where such services are not provided by the host country.

The Advisory Committee was informed that, as at 30 April 1995, host government contributions for 1994-1995 were $850,335. The Advisory Committee requests the Secretary-General to monitor this situation, in the light of agreements entered into with host Governments to cover such costs from voluntary contributions.

VII.19. As indicated in paragraphs 25.89 and 25.90, the objective of the information centres is to promote an understanding of the work and purposes of the United Nations, particularly in the countries of their operation; their operations cover the whole spectrum of promotional and information services. The Advisory Committee recommends that the centres, under the leadership of the United Nations resident coordinator, coordinate their information activities to the maximum extent possible, with the information programmes and activities of the United Nations specialized agencies, programmes and funds.

VII.20. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 30 of the Secretary-General's report on the United Nations information centres in 1994 (A/AC.198/1995/2) that only 38 United Nations information centres have the capacity to communicate with Headquarters by electronic mail. The Advisory Committee was informed that currently, there are 62 United Nations information centres, 6 United Nations information services and 8 United Nations field offices. The Advisory Committee recommends that steps be taken to establish electronic links between the centres and Headquarters to facilitate and reduce the cost of communication. The Advisory Committee further recommends that the administrative support for the centres be reviewed with a view to reducing such costs, thereby releasing more resources for operational activities.

VII.21. With respect to information activities and programmes for peace-keeping and humanitarian operations, the Advisory Committee concludes from its examination and review of budgetary proposals and performance reports of peace-keeping missions that at present there is no uniform approach to the issue of determining public information requirements, including infrastructure facilities for peace-keeping and humanitarian operations. The Advisory Committee points out that, in the absence of uniform standards, information efforts are often fragmented and the use of facilities, such as radio broadcasting, is less than optimal. The Advisory Committee recommends that the Department of Public Information, acting as a lead agency, study this question in all its aspects and submit a policy proposal, including financial implications, to the General Assembly.

VII.22. The Advisory Committee was provided with workload standards and staffing patterns of the Department for coverage of international conferences away from Headquarters (see table below). The Advisory Committee observes that workload standard and staffing patterns have remained unchanged, despite the introduction of modern technologies in recent years. As indicated in the table below, the number of international and local staff assigned to cover major, medium and small conferences ranges from 57 to 10 staff members. The Advisory Committee believes that the actual number of staff to be assigned to cover a conference should be related to the requirements of the conference itself, which may not be necessarily related to the size of the conference. The Advisory Committee recommends that the standards be reviewed and updated, taking into account recent experiences with conference coverage, the introduction of technologies that might have rendered some procedures obsolete and the need for realizing economies.

Workload standards and staffing patterns for information coverage by the Department of Public Information of international conferences held away from Headquarters

	Major conference a/			Medium conference a/			Small conference a/		
	International	Local	Total	International	Local	Total	International	Local	Total
Coordinator/spokesman	1 b/	-		1 b/	-		1	-	
Information officer/ project manager	1	-		1	-		1	-	
Media liaison officer	1	-		-	-		-	-	
Secretary	1	-		-	1		-	1	
Subtotal	4	-	4	2	1	3	2	1	3
Editors/press officers (E,F) c/	8	-		6	-		2	-	
Typing pool supervisor/ proofreader (bilingual E,F) c/	2	-		2	-		1	-	
Typists (E,F) c/	-	4		-	2		-	2	
Telex operators	-	4		-	2		-	1	
Mimeo operators/ photocopiers	-	2		-	2		-	1	
Messengers	-	2		-	2		-	1	
Subtotal	10	12	22	8	8	16	3	5	8
Accreditation officer	1	-		1	-		-	-	
Accreditation clerks	-	2		-	1		-	-	
Documents officer	1	-		1	-		-	-	
Documents clerks	-	2		-	1		-	-	
Subtotal	2	4	6	2	2	4	-	-	-
Radio officers (E,F,S)	3	-		2	-		2	-	
Production assistants	-	3		-	2		-	1	
Radio engineers	-	5		-	2		-	1	
Subtotal	3	8	11	2	4	6	2	2	4
Television-news producer	1	-		1	-		-	-	
Camera operator	1	-		-	1		-	-	
Audio-visual facilities officer	1	-		1	-		-	-	
Sound recordist	1	-		-	1		-	-	
Projectionist	-	1		-	1		-	-	
Subtotal	4	1	5	2	3	5	-	-	-

	Major conference a/			Medium conference a/			Small conference a/		
	International	Local	Total	International	Local	Total	International	Local	Total
Photographer	1	-		-	1		-	- d/	
Photo editor	1	-		1	-		-	-	
Darkroom technicians	-	1		-	-		-	-	
Photo distribution clerk	-	1		-	-		-	-	
Subtotal	2	2	4	1	1	2	-	-	-
Non-governmental organization liaison officer	1	-		- e/	-		- e/	-	
United Nations information centre liaison officer	1	-		1	-		-	-	
Secretary	1	2		-	1		-	1	
Subtotal	3	2	5	1	1	2	-	1	1
Total	28	29	57	18	20	28	7	9	10

a/ Major conference: where there are two ore more simultaneous open meetings; medium conference: where there is only one open meeting but with large delegate participation; and small conference: where there is limited delegate participation or limited press interest.

b/ The only circumstance under which the Office of the Spokesman would be involved in conference coverage would be when the Secretary-General himself is participating, and a member of the Office of the Spokesman is accompanying him.

c/ In cases where a conference involves more than two official languages, there would be need for additional staff for coverage.

d/ In the case of small conferences where representational rather than comprehensive coverage is required, it is more cost-efficient for the Department of Public Information servicing staff to make arrangements with a local newspaper or government office to have their photographer shoot a selective number of negatives and to pay for them (cost estimated at some $500). The related cost incurred would be substantially less than that required to employ a local photographer.

e/ If a medium or small conference has a significant non-governmental organization component, there would be need to assign a non-governmental organization liaison officer.

VII.23. With regard to the overall direction of the United Nations public information policies and strategies, the Advisory Committee endorses the views expressed in paragraph 25.16 of the proposed programme budget concerning the role of the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General and the Department in relation to information policies and strategies within the Secretariat and the United Nations system. The Advisory Committee notes that, as indicated in paragraph 25.2 of the proposed programme budget, in an effort to reconcile growing information needs in an environment of limited resources, the Department must strive to deploy its staff more effectively, increase its use of modern technologies, strengthen its professional credibility, and orchestrate effectively all public information activities of the Organization, thus avoiding fragmentation and dilution of the Organization's public information efforts. The Advisory Committee believes as well that it is imperative for the Department to communicate effectively, with clarity and in a cost-effective manner the United Nations message on all issues of concern to Member States.

PART VIII. COMMON SUPPORT SERVICES

VIII.1. Part VIII of the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997 covers section 26, Administration and management, estimated at $952,683,500. In addition to the regular budget estimates, extrabudgetary resources for section 26 are estimated at $96,067,300. Table 26.1 of the general overview provides a distribution of the regular budget estimates among subsections A to H and a breakdown of extrabudgetary resources by source of funding.

Section 26A. Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management

VIII.2. The estimate of $12,548,100 (before recosting) for section 26A includes resource growth of $918,000, or 7.8 per cent over the revised 1994-1995 appropriations. As can be seen from table 26A.1, the growth is almost entirely attributable to subprogramme 1, Administration of justice.

VIII.3. As reflected in the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997, the Secretary-General's estimate for subprogramme 1, Administration of justice, amounts to $2,073,700 before recosting, including a provision of $934,000 before recosting for reforming the Organization's internal justice system. Subsequently, the Secretary-General issued a report (document A/C.5/49/60/Add.1) on the reform of the internal system of justice in which he estimated the cost of the reform at $1,377,600 for 1996-1997. The increase in the estimates, however, will not result in a revision of the budget estimates under section 26A, Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, in accordance with the clarification provided by the representatives of the Secretary-General.

VIII.4. As indicated in the proposed programme budget, the proposed reform of the internal system of justice in the United Nations Secretariat would require the establishment of five additional posts (one D-1 for the Coordinator of the proposed ombudsman panels, one P-5 and one P-4 for review officers, one P-4 for a legal officer and one General Service/Principal level). However, the Secretary-General has subsequently issued document A/C.5/49/60/Add.2/Corr.1 (28 June 1995) in which he corrects a previous statement to read "the proposals set out in the report of 18 March 1995 (A/C.5/49/60) will be revised to cover all the specific institutional, legal and procedural changes required by the reform". Under the circumstances, the Advisory Committee's overall comments and recommendations on the proposed reform will be submitted in a separate report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session upon receipt of the Secretary-General's revised proposal. As far as the proposed establishment of the five additional posts is concerned, the Advisory Committee recommends that consideration of these posts be deferred pending the revision by the Secretary-General of his proposal on the reform of the internal system of justice.

VIII.5. The Advisory Committee is aware of the increased workload of the Fifth Committee, substantive services of which are provided by staff of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General. The number of meetings of the Fifth Committee has considerably increased during the last few years. The Advisory Committee requests the Secretary-General to review the adequacy of the Office and to strengthen its substantive servicing capacity through the redeployment of resources.

Section 26B. Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts

VIII.6. The estimate for section 26B amounts to $20,507,500 before recosting. As shown in table 26B.1 of the proposed programme budget, the estimate includes resource growth of $851,400 before recosting, i.e., 4.3 per cent over the revised 1994-1995 appropriations.

VIII.7. The growth under section 26B is attributable mainly to the proposed establishment of seven posts (one D-2, one D-1, one P-5, one P-4, one General Service/Principal level and two General Service/Other level) for the Peace-keeping Financing Division and to the enhancement of the capacity of the budget information system of the Programme Planning and Budget Division.

VIII.8. The proposed new posts for the Peace-keeping Financing Division are currently financed from the support account. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the transfer of the four Professional posts (one D-2, one D-1, one P-5 and one P-4), provided that all applicable personnel policies and procedures, including those for classification and filling of regular budget posts, are strictly adhered to. Since the Advisory Committee was requested a review of support staff (see chap. I above), the Advisory Committee is of the view that it is not necessary to transfer the three General Service posts at this time.

Section 26 C. Office of Human Resources Management

VIII.9. The Secretary-General's estimate for section 26C amounts to $38,290,100 before recosting and includes resource growth of $558,100 before recosting, i.e. 1.4 per cent over the revised 1994-1995 appropriations. Extrabudgetary resources foreseen for this subsection in 1996-1997 total $7,068,500.

VIII.10. The amount of growth under posts ($436,600 before recosting) reflects the following proposed changes in the staffing table of the Office of Human Resources Management for 1996-1997:

(a) New posts: one D-1, two P-5 and one P-4 for the Planning and Development Service;

(b) Posts redeployed to the Specialist Services Division from section 29, Office of Internal Oversight Services: one P-5 and two General Service/Principal level;

(c) Abolished posts: two P-2 in the Training Division, two General Service posts in the Operational Division and one General Service post in the Specialist Services Division;

In addition, 45 extrabudgetary posts are proposed for the biennium 1996-1997, including 18 in the Professional category and above and 27 in the General Service, which represents an increase of two posts (one P-4/3 and one General Service/Principal level), as reflected in table 26C.3.

VIII.11. The organizational structure of the Office of Human Resources Management, as shown in the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997, reflects the transformation of the current Staff Administration and Training Division and Recruitment and Placement Division into an Operational Services Division and a Specialist Services Division, respectively, through the redeployment of staff and resources. In addition to these two new divisions, the Planning and

Development Service, the Training Service, the Office of the Focal Point for Women and the Secretariat of the Appointment and Promotion Bodies are being attached to the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General.

VIII.12. The changes in the organizational structure of the Office of Human Resources Management are being undertaken as a result of the endorsement by the General Assembly (sect. I of resolution 49/222 A) of the Secretary-General's strategy for the management of the human resources of the Organization contained in his report A/C.5/49/5. A brief overview of the strategy is contained in paragraphs 26C.1 to 26C.10 of the budget submission for section 26C.

VIII.13. The Advisory Committee considered in detail various aspects of the new strategy for the management of the human resources of the Organization, in particular, alternative ways of recruitment, the concept of clusters/teams to provide integrated personnel services to departments and offices, the transfer from the Office of Internal Oversight Services of functions related to the Organizational Manual, training, career management, improvement of gender balance in the Secretariat and contracting out for selected technical functions.

VIII.14. With regard to alternative ways of recruitment, the Advisory Committee points out that the General Assembly, while noting in section I, paragraph 4, of its resolution 49/222 A that the Secretary-General intends to implement alternative ways of recruiting staff on a limited and experimental basis, requested him to ensure that such projects are monitored and evaluated closely and in a timely manner for both effectiveness and cost. The Advisory Committee stresses the experimental character of alternative ways of recruitment and intends to address this issue at the time when the results of the Secretary-General's evaluation become available.

VIII.15. With regard to the concept of clusters/teams dedicated to providing integrated personnel services to departments and offices, the Advisory Committee points out that the role of clusters/teams, their interaction and functional responsibilities, as well as lines of reporting are not clearly defined. The Advisory Committee was also concerned about a possibility of duplication of activities, such as communications with prospective candidates for recruitment and vacancy announcements, undertaken by the cluster units of the Operational Services Division, the Specialist Services Division and by other departments, such as the Department of Peace-keeping Operations. Furthermore, upon inquiry, the representative of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that the norms established by the Secretary-General for organizational nomenclature do not currently provide for clusters or teams. The Advisory Committee trusts that the concept of clusters/teams will be further developed and refined to eliminate a possible duplication of activities and to ensure maximum efficiency in the utilization of the Organization's resources. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General review the norms established for organizational nomenclature and change them, if necessary, to include new organizational terms, such as clusters and teams. Alternatively, the Secretary-General may wish to use the established terms of the current nomenclature instead of clusters or teams.

VIII.16. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 26C.7 of the proposed programme budget that a new organizational advisory function and job design capacity will be created through redeployment of three posts (one P-5 and two General Service/Principal level) from the Office of Internal Oversight Services. The functions of the Organizational Structure and Job Design Unit are reflected under activity 3 (d) of subprogramme 3, Specialist services. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the redeployment of these three staff.

VIII.17. The Secretary-General estimates requirements for training in 1996-1997 at $13,492,000 (table 26C.1) before recosting, which reflects resource growth of $142,900 (before recosting), i.e., 1 per cent over the revised 1994-1995 appropriations. The Advisory Committee points out that resource requirements for training are not completely centralized under section 26C. For instance, training related to the IMIS project is covered under section 30 of the proposed programme budget and requirements for language training at the regional commissions (except for ECE) are reflected under the respective budgetary sections. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the total estimated cost of training included in the proposed programme budget, as a whole, amounted to approximately $10,123,200, i.e, 0.63 per cent of total staff costs. This represents an increase in the share of resources programmed for training in the overall budget of the Organization proposed for 1996-1997. The Advisory Committee points out that this is in conformity with the request of the General Assembly in section I, paragraph 15, of its resolution 49/222 A that the Secretary-General give due priority to training in drafting the programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. The Advisory Committee requests the Secretary-General to ensure that training programmes are cost effective, and that they are designed to address specific problems, the solution to which will enhance the United Nations capacity to deliver its mandated activities.

VIII.18. The negative resource growth for posts under the training programme ($462,000 before recosting) reflected in table 26C.12, relates to the proposed abolition of two language coordinator posts at the P-2 level and to the redeployment of two General Service/Other level posts to the Operational Services Division. The Advisory Committee is concerned about the possible adverse effect of the proposed abolition of the two language coordinator posts on the programme of training in all official languages of the United Nations; therefore, the Advisory Committee recommends that an analysis and justification of the Secretary-General's plan in this area be made available prior to the approval by the General Assembly of the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997.

VIII.19. The largest resource growth for training is under contractual services: $680,000 before recosting, i.e., 7.2 per cent over the revised 1994-1995 appropriations. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 26C.63 that the largest provision under contractual services is made for training programmes in leadership, management and administration ($3.5 million). This amount also includes provisions for Performance Appraisal System (PAS) training. The Advisory Committee is of the view that the Organization should utilize to the maximum extent its in-house expertise for the purpose of training of staff. Moreover, the Committee trusts that provisions of Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations will be duly taken into account when implementing these activities. The Advisory Committee's observations and recommendations on PAS are contained in chapter I above.

VIII.20. In paragraph 26C.15 of the proposed programme budget, the Secretary-General provides an overview of the role and activities of the Office of the Focal Point for Women which will continue to operate under the direct supervision of the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General. The Advisory Committee notes that the Office of the Focal Point for Women is currently composed of two posts (one D-1 and one General Service/Other level) financed from extrabudgetary sources. The Advisory Committee understands that the Office will interact with other units of the Office of Human Resources Management on matters relating to the appointment, placement and promotion of women; the Advisory Committee is concerned, however, that such a priority area of activity of the Office of Human Resources Management remains funded fully from extrabudgetary resources.

VIII.21. As reflected in paragraph 26C.53, a provision of $391,300, including resource growth of $93,300, is requested "for advertising and promotion in connection with publicity campaigns, special advertising for occupational groups and priority searches for senior level posts". The Advisory Committee is not convinced that increased allocations for advertising and promotion is the most efficient way of searching for qualified candidates for recruitment. Instead, the Advisory Committee is of the opinion that the Secretariat should intensify its cooperation with Member States and their Governments in identifying such candidates. The Advisory Committee recommends, therefore, deletion of the proposed increase of $93,300 before recosting under contractual services in subprogramme 3, Specialist services.

VIII.22. Although contracting out for selected technical functions is mentioned in paragraph 26C.3 as one of the components of the new strategy for the management of the human resources of the Organization, the budget submission does not indicate the scope or criteria for contracting-out in 1996-1997. The Committee requested information to clarify the type of technical functions that would be contracted out but has not received a reply as of the date of the present report. The Advisory Committee has made some general observations on contracting out in chapter I above.

VIII.23. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 26C.55 that a provision of $18,900 is made "for the purchase of reference and information material related to the world-wide identification of high-level candidates for senior positions". The Advisory Committee has always believed that information on high-level candidates for senior positions was provided to the United Nations by the Member States free of charge. The Advisory Committee recommends that this practice be continued and, therefore, the provision of $18,900 be deleted.

Section 26D. Support services, Headquarters

VIII.24. The estimate of $210,024,200 before recosting for section 26D reflects negative resource growth of $7,804,900 before recosting, which represents a resource reduction of 3.5 per cent. As can be seen from table 26D.1, the net negative growth of $7,804,900 represents a combined effect of a total decrease of $8,750,700 under the five subprogrammes of the programme of work, partially offset by an increase of $945,800 under executive direction and management. The Advisory Committee welcomes the inclusion in the budget submission for section 26D of information on significant performance indicators and requests the Secretary-General to continue to improve the format and content of the indicators, to make them more meaningful and to provide this type of information, to the extent possible, under other sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

VIII.25. For 1996-1997 the following post changes are proposed for subsection 26D:

(a) Under executive direction and management: the consolidation of five established posts (one P-5, one P-3 and three General Service/Other level from the former office of the Director of Support Services) in the office of the Assistant Secretary-General; the redeployment of five posts (one ASG, one D-1, one P-4 and two General Service/Other level from section 26E, Conference services) to the office of the Assistant Secretary-General (para. 26D.13);

(b) Under subprogramme 4, Commercial, procurement and transportation services: the reclassification of a D-1 post to the D-2 level and the redeployment of a P-5 post to the office of the Director of Conference Services (sect. 26E) (para. 26D.40);

(c) Under subprogramme 5, Facilities management, maintenance and construction: the redeployment of a D-2 post to subprogramme 2, Electronic support services; the downgrading of a D-1 temporary post to the P-5 level and the abolition of 24 posts in the trades and crafts area (para. 26D.53).

In addition, the proposed staffing table for the biennium 1996-1997 provides for 103 extrabudgetary posts, including 23 in the Professional category and above, 66 in the General Service category and 14 in Other categories, which represents an increase of five Professional and five General Service posts, as reflected in table 26D.3.

VIII.26. Extrabudgetary resources under section 26D are estimated at $23,827,200 for 1996-1997, compared with $25,125,700 for 1994-1995. The Advisory Committee was informed that $1.5 million of the total expected extrabudgetary funds related to reimbursement for the occupancy of offices in the building at 2 United Nations Plaza by staff assigned to technical cooperation activities. The Advisory Committee points out that these estimates have not changed since the proposed programme budget for 1988-1989 and that the Advisory Committee had recommended, in the context of its consideration of the 1990-1991 proposed programme budget, that "a system be devised to establish a fair share of reimbursing the cost of accommodation for posts related to extrabudgetary activities". 9/

VIII.27. In paragraph 30 of document A/C.5/46/56, the Secretary-General stated that "should extrabudgetary staff in support of technical activities be charged the rental rate applied to other users for occupancy at United Nations premises, the total reimbursement for rental of premises for staff in the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development alone would amount to approximately $3.9 million for the 1992-1993 biennium. This amount must be compared with the amount of $1.5 million reflected in the proposed programme budget for the 1992-1993 biennium". In response to inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the estimate of $29,571,200 for rental of premises (para. 26D.57 (a) (i)) takes into account reimbursement of a total of $3,731,900 for support to extrabudgetary activities.

VIII.28. The Advisory Committee regrets that its recommendation on the need to establish a fair share of reimbursing the cost of accommodation for posts funded from extrabudgetary sources remains yet to be implemented. The Advisory Committee reiterates this recommendation and requests the Secretary-General to implement it without further delay.

VIII.29. Overtime under subprogramme 1, Security and safety, amounts to $2,825,000 before recosting and shows no change from the current level of appropriation. The Advisory Committee has consistently pointed to the need for efficient management of overtime funds for security. The Advisory Committee was informed that whereas $3,249,700 had been spent on overtime in 1992-1993 (about $1.6 million a year), an amount of $1,004,100 had been spent in 1994 owing to stricter controls. The Advisory Committee believes that more can be done to reduce further the expenditures on overtime; the Advisory Committee, therefore, recommends a reduction of $625,000 (at 1996-1997 rates) in the overtime requirements under other staff costs for 1996-1997.

VIII.30. The Advisory Committee notes that under subprogramme 2, Electronic support services, the only change in the staffing table for the Electronic

Services Division proposed for 1996-1997 is the redeployment of one D-2 post from subprogramme 5, Facilities management, maintenance and construction, in order to strengthen executive direction and management within the Division. The Advisory Committee recognizes the need for such a strengthening, given the scope and dynamics of the technological innovations programme and telecommunications within the Organization. The Advisory Committee is of the view that much remains to be done in the area of coordination of technological innovations efforts at Headquarters and at its regional offices; there is need to standardize further electronic equipment and software installed in the United Nations, and to increase the effectiveness and role of the Technological Innovations Board in developing strategy for technological innovations. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposed redeployment.

VIII.31. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 26D.31 that a provision of $100,000 is proposed under subprogramme 2, Electronic support services, for the acquisition, installation and rental of specialized databases for direct user access, including access to external databases of relevance to departments and offices. The Advisory Committee was informed, on inquiry, that the Organization provided to outside users access to its databases UNPRESS, optical disk, GOPHER and WEB SERVER. For UNPRESS and optical disk, access is provided only to Member States and is free of charge. The GOPHER and WEB SERVER contain United Nations information which is maintained for public distribution and access. Presently, the Organization does not charge for this service. However, as of 1996, a flat rate of approximately $150 is expected to be charged per user/year. In view of the above information, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General pursue expeditiously his efforts to allow outside users access to United Nations databases such as GOPHER and WEB SERVER for a reasonable fee and that complete information in this regard be presented to the Advisory Committee in the proposed programme budget for 1998-1999.

VIII.32. The largest provision proposed under subprogramme 2, Electronic support services, is under general operating expenses ($22,652,800 before recosting). The breakdown of this provision is contained in paragraphs 26D.33 to 26D.35 of the proposed programme budget.

VIII.33. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 26D.34 (b) of the proposed programme budget that out of the total estimated requirements of $22,652,800 under general operating expenses, an amount of $6,476,300 is proposed for rental and maintenance of the mainframe computer used by the New York Computer Section. As can be seen from the table of significant performance indicators preceding paragraph 26D.29 of the proposed programme budget, the mainframe computer of the New York Computer Section is expected to be used during the biennium 1994-1995 somewhat less than during the 1992-1993 biennium. The Advisory Committee was informed that no new applications for the mainframe computer had been submitted during the past three years. This was due, in part, to the growing number of personal computers in the Organization and their incorporation into local area networks (LANs).

VIII.34. The Advisory Committee recalls that in paragraph VIII.14 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, 2/ it had recommended that "an evaluation should be undertaken to review the long-term policy implications of the growing introduction of personal computers and local area networks (LANs) in the Organization". Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was not provided with a satisfactory explanation in regard to the implementation of its recommendation. The Advisory Committee reiterates its recommendation and requests that the Secretary-General provide complete information in this regard in the context of his programme budget proposal for 1998-1999. In the meantime, the Advisory Committee recommends that the estimated requirements for rental and maintenance of the mainframe computer be reduced by $1,390,800 for 1996-1997.

VIII.35. The largest provision under general operating expenses is proposed for communications ($13,156,000). The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 26D.26 of the proposed programme budget that during the biennium 1996-1997, in the area of telecommunications, emphasis will continue to be placed on the upgrading of the telecommunications system capabilities such as the proposed satellite telecommunications network and electronic data transmission to permit faster response by the Organization to the needs of peace-keeping operations, human rights, humanitarian and economic and social activities. The Advisory Committee trusts that in implementing his telecommunications programme, the Secretary-General will take fully into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution 48/262 of 14 July 1994 on the United Nations telecommunications system.

VIII.36. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 26D.27 that further to the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations telecommunications system (A/C.5/49/26), detailed information on alternative means of operating the network will be included in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session. The Advisory Committee points out that a final decision on the most cost-effective means of operating the United Nations telecommunications network is still pending and that the Advisory Committee intends to revert to this issue in the context of its review of the report of the Secretary-General to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session. In the meantime, the Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 26D.30 that a provision of $599,800 is made for individual service contracts and general temporary assistance which would augment, as necessary, the staff of the Electronic Services Division in the continuation of the operation of the satellite telecommunications network, pending the results of the evaluation of the viability of contracting out the operation of the network. The Advisory Committee points out that a provision of $2,605,000 for telecommunications is also made under section 31, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, in respect of which the Advisory Committee's comments and recommendations are contained in part XI below.

VIII.37. In response to its inquiry regarding the policy on replacement of office automation equipment, the Advisory Committee was informed that in the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997, the unit replacement cost for personal computers and LAN servers had been estimated at $2,000 and $44,000 respectively. The following table, provided by the Secretariat, contains details of the resources for office automation equipment replacement in the departments/units of the Secretariat.

Replacement of office automation equipment

(United States dollars)

Department (A)	Number of personal computers (B)	Cost of personal computer upgrades (0.40xBx $2,000) (C)	Server capacity (B/100) (D)	Server valuation (Dx$44,000) (E)	40 per cent of server valuation (Ex0.40) (F)	Replacement request 1996-1997 (C+F) (G)
Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	8	6 400	0.1	3 520	1 408	7 808
Executive Office of the Secretary-General	83	66 400	0.8	36 520	14 608	81 008
Department for Development Support and Management Services	187	149 600	1.9	82 280	32 912	182 512
Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis	270	216 000	2.7	118 800	47 520	263 520
Department of Humanitarian Affairs	21	16 800	0.2	9 240	3 696	20 496
Department of Political Affairs	212	169 600	2.1	93 280	37 312	206 912
Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development	250	200 000	2.5	110 000	44 000	244 000
Department of Public Information	232	185 600	2.3	102 080	40 832	226 432
Department of Peace-keeping Operations	21	16 800	0.2	9 240	3 696	20 496
International Civil Service Commission	47	37 600	0.5	20 680	8 272	45 872
Office of Internal Oversight Services	36	28 800	0.4	15 840	6 336	35 136
Office of Legal Affairs	77	61 600	0.8	33 880	13 552	75 152
Board of Auditors	5	4 000	0.1	2 200	880	4 880
Department of Administration and Management						
Office of the Under-Secretary-General	82	65 600	0.8	36 080	14 432	80 032
Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts	262	209 600	2.6	115 280	46 112	255 712
Office of Human Resources Management	256	204 800	2.6	112 640	45 056	249 856
Support Services	508	406 400	5.1	223 520	89 408	495 808
Conference Services	894	715 200	8.9	393 360	157 344	872 544
Grand total	3 451	2 760 800	34.5	1 518 440	607 376	3 368 176

VIII.38. In response to its inquiry regarding the policy of acquisition of office automation equipment, the Advisory Committee was informed that in the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997, an overall amount of $4.2 million had been requested. Based on the unit cost of $2,000 and $44,000, respectively, for the acquisition of personal computers and LAN servers, it is estimated that the resources requested would provide for approximately 1,050 personal computers (50 per cent of total resources) and 47 LAN servers. However, resources requested for office automation equipment are not restricted to personal computers and LAN servers. They would include other items such as facsimile servers, optical disk system scanners, wide area networks, network workstations, notebook computers, etc.

VIII.39. The Advisory Committee recommends that more attention be paid by the management of the Department of Administration and Management and of the Office for Conference and Support Services in particular, to the question of coordination within the United Nations system of efforts to develop a reliable telecommunications network. In this connection, the Advisory Committee points out that it intends to consider the Mercure project agreement between the European Space Agency and the United Nations to be submitted to the General Assembly for endorsement in accordance with decision 18/47 of the UNEP Governing Council.

VIII.40. With regard to rental of alternate voice/data (AVD) circuits, for which a provision of $3,262,200 is proposed in paragraph 26D.35 (b), the Advisory Committee was informed, in response to its inquiry, that the AVD circuits would be required, to a large extent, as back-up communications links between New York and the United Nations overseas offices. Given the cost involved, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General review the long-term need for these lines, taking into account the decisions to be taken by the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the United Nations telecommunication network.

VIII.41. With regard to subprogramme 4, Commercial, procurement and transportation services, the Advisory Committee points out that in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 49/216 C of 23 December 1994, the Secretary-General has issued a progress report (A/C.5/49/67) containing proposals for the improvement of the procurement activities in the Secretariat. As stated in paragraph 28 therein, action has already been taken on some of the recommendations made by the high-level group of procurement experts, as well as on other recommendations made during the General Assembly, including those of the Board of Auditors. Some recommendations of the group, such as restructuring of the Purchase and Transportation Service into a Division to be headed by a Director at the D-2 level and integration of IMIS and the automated procurement system "REALITY", have been reflected in the budget estimates for subprogramme 4 for the biennium 1996-1997. The Advisory Committee intends to revert to the issue of proposals for the improvement of procurement activities in the Secretariat when it reviews a full report on procurement reform to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session (see A/C.5/49/67, para. 6).

VIII.42. As stated above, the budgetary proposals under subprogramme 4, Commercial, procurement and transportation services, include, inter alia, a reclassification of a D-1 post to the D-2 level "in order to provide the appropriate level of executive direction and management within the Division" (para. 46D.41) and a redeployment of a P-5 post to the Office of the Director for Conference Services (sect. 26E). The Advisory Committee recognizes that this proposal is made in the context of the reform and improvement of procurement services in the Secretariat and the restructuring of the Purchase and Transportation Service into a Division. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the D-2 post was requested to provide the appropriate level of executive direction and management within the new Division. The Advisory Committee points out that a full report on procurement reform will be submitted to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session. The Advisory Committee therefore recommends at this stage that the proposed reclassification of a D-1 post to the D-2 level be deferred until the Secretary-General's full report on the procurement reform is taken up at the fiftieth session of the General Assembly.

VIII.43. The estimated requirements of $125,307,700 before recosting under subprogramme 5, Facilities management, maintenance and construction, reflect a number of changes in the staffing table of the Building Management Service for 1996-1997 and the cost of rental and maintenance of premises in 1996-1997. The Advisory Committee points out that while staff and related costs are reflected under this section of the proposed programme budget, a significant portion of the resource requirements under the subprogramme, namely those related to capital expenditures, are requested under section 31, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance.

VIII.44. The proposed staffing changes under the subprogramme are shown in paragraph VIII.24 above. The observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee with regard to the proposed redeployment of the D-2 post are contained in its discussion of subprogramme 2, Electronic support services, above.

VIII.45. The Advisory Committee was informed, in response to its inquiry, that the functional breakdown of 24 posts in the Trades and Crafts category was as follows: 4 movers, 2 plumbers, 2 machine shop hardware, 10 general maintenance, 3 ground maintenance/gardening, 1 painter and 2 compressor operators. The Advisory Committee was informed that the proposed abolition of 24 posts was a result of the contracting out of the functions formerly attributed to these posts; the abolition of posts, if approved, would be effected through attrition of staff. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposed abolition of these 24 posts. The Advisory Committee requests the Secretary-General to provide information on how he intends to implement the reduction "through attrition of staff".

VIII.46. With regard to the proposed downward reclassification of a temporary D-1 post to the P-5 level, the Advisory Committee was informed that the functions of the D-1 post comprised, inter alia, responsibility for major projects worldwide, particularly the new construction projects at ESCAP, ECA, and other overseas locations. With the exception of the ECA project, most of the other major construction projects had now been completed. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposed downward reclassification.

VIII.47. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 26D.57 (a) (i) that a provision of $29,571,200 is proposed under rental of premises. In the course of the Advisory Committee's review of these requirements, it came to light, however, that the estimates include a provision of $3,000,000 before recosting for the rental cost of two floors at the FF building not mentioned in paragraph 26D.57 (a). The Advisory Committee points out that the proposal to rent two floors at the FF building (304 East 45th Street) should have been submitted to it before the preparation of the proposed programme budget, in accordance with existing procedures governing acquisition of additional space. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon request, that it was anticipated that this space would be occupied by the Department of Peace-keeping Operations.

This being the case, the Advisory Committee would have inquired, had it been consulted, as to the extent to which the space at the FF building would be used to accommodate staff funded through the support account for peace-keeping operations. The Advisory Committee requests that this information be provided to it and the General Assembly during its consideration of the proposed programme budget. Pending consideration of this information, the Advisory Committee recommends that provision for rental of premises in the FF building for 1996-1997 under the regular budget be deleted at this time.

VIII.48. The Advisory Committee requests the Secretary-General to survey the terms of agreements under which the press and other entities occupy space in United Nations owned/rented buildings, free of charge or at less than commercial rates, with a view to considering the possibility of charging appropriate rent for such space.

VIII.49. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 26D.57 (a) (iv) that resource growth of $933,300 before recosting for miscellaneous maintenance services includes a provision of $425,600 before recosting for the maintenance needs of the building formerly occupied by UNITAR. In view of the fact that four out of five floors in the building are occupied by the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, the Advisory Committee recommends that information be provided to indicate how much of this amount should be funded through the support account for peace-keeping operations. Pending receipt of this information, the Advisory Committee recommends that the amount of $425,600 before recosting be deleted at this time.

VIII.50. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 26D.57 (b) of the proposed programme budget that out of the total resource growth of $2,045,000 before recosting proposed under utilities, an amount of $1,445,000 relates to the increased overall level of consumption of water, electricity and steam in relation to the Headquarters, UNITAR and the United Nations Development Corporation buildings. In response to its inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the apparent increase in requirements for water was the result of a reconciliation of charges recently finalized with the City of New York, since, in previous years, the amounts charged by the City were incomplete and erroneous; the increased consumption of electricity and steam is the result of the increase in the number of conference and meetings held at headquarters, which also resulted in an extended number of working hours of staff members and their usage of office automation equipment. The Advisory Committee also inquired as to what measures had been taken so far, and would be taken during 1996-1997 in order to optimize the consumption of water, electricity and steam; however, it was not provided with information in this respect. The Advisory Committee recommends that efforts be made to reduce the consumption of water, electricity, steam and other utilities; it recommends, therefore, a reduction in the estimate for utilities of $2.2 million at 1996-1997 rates.

VIII.51. The Secretary-General proposes to abolish four posts under subprogramme 6 in view of the fact that the related functions such as microfilming and archival processing will be contracted out. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the abolition of the four posts and requests information be provided as to how the reduction will be achieved through attrition of staff. The Advisory Committee further recommends that efforts be made to develop a long-term policy on archives and records management in the United Nations which should take full account of the current and future needs of the Organization, including those relating to peace-keeping operations, and bearing in mind the advantages resulting from the Organization's investments in new technology.

Section 26E. Conference services

VIII.52. The cost estimates for section 26E, Conference services, which provide for conference-servicing at Headquarters in New York, at the United Nations Office at Geneva and the United Nations Office at Vienna and for library information services at the United Nations Office at Geneva and the United Nations Office at Vienna, amount to $445,261,200 before recosting, as shown in table 26E.1 (1). In addition, extrabudgetary requirements for the biennium 1996-1997 are estimated at $3,342,600, as shown in table 26E.1 (2). As stated in paragraph 26E.2 of the proposed programme budget, additional provisions for conference and library services are also included under sections 15 (ECA), 16 (ESCAP), 18 (ECLAC), 19 (ESCWA) and 26H (Administration, Nairobi). Resources for the Dag Hammarskjöld Library in New York are included under section 25 (Public information). Provision for some publishing services are included under sections 25 (Public information), 26D (Support services) and 26E (Conference services).

VIII.53. Resource growth for section 26E amounts to $2,077,200 before recosting, or 0.4 per cent over the revised 1994-1995 appropriations. Table 26E.2 contains a breakdown of the growth by object of expenditure. The Advisory Committee points out that the total net growth of $2,077,200 before recosting reflects an impact of the new arrangements for conference services at Vienna. This arrangement, however, will also result in increases in income arising from the reimbursement by UNIDO for conference services provided to it by the United Nations. This income is budgeted under income section 2.

VIII.54. The proposed staffing table for section 26E, Conference services, for the biennium 1996-1997 provides for the following changes, compared with the current biennium:

(a) Conference Services, New York:

(i) Redeployment of three posts (one ASG, one D-1 and one P-4) from the Office of the Director of Conference Services to section 26D, Support services, which is partially offset by a redeployment to the Office of the Director of Conference Services of a P-5 post from section 26D (para. 26E.16);

(ii) Reduction of 13 General Service (Other level) posts in the text processing pools of the Editorial and Official Records services, through abolition of 8 posts, and redeployment from the Editorial services of 2 General Service (Other level) posts to the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General for Conference and Support Services (sect. 26D) and 3 General Service (Other level) posts to the Publishing services (para. 26E.27);

(iii) Establishment of six new P-3 posts and reclassification of five P-2 posts to the P-3 level in the Translation services (para. 26E.33);

(iv) Establishment of one P-5 post and one P-4 post in the Publishing services (para. 26E.37);

(b) Conference and Library Services, Geneva:

(i) Abolition of seven General Service (Other level) posts in the Editorial and official records services (para. 26E.55);

(ii) Abolition of one General Service (Other level) post in the Meeting, interpretation and verbatim reporting services (para. 26E.58);

(iii) Reclassification of six P-2 posts to the P-3 level in the Translation services (para. 26E.61);

(iv) Abolition of one P-2 and one General Service (Other level) post in the Library Information Services (para. 26E.70);

(c) Conference and Library Services, Vienna:

Establishment of one D-1 post and one P-4 post in the Meeting, interpretation and verbatim reporting services and abolition of one P-5 post and one P-2 post in the same Service (para. 26E.91).

For 1996-1997, the number of posts funded from extrabudgetary sources remain unchanged at 20 (6 posts in the Professional category and 14 General Service posts).

VIII.55. The Advisory Committee points out that the net effect of all the above changes (i.e., establishment, abolition, redeployment and reclassification of posts) on the staffing table for section 26E, would be a decrease of one ASG post, an increase of one P-5 post and 18 P-4/3 posts and a decrease of 13 P-2/1 posts and 19 General Service (Other level) posts. The total number of regular budget posts proposed for 1996-1997 thus amounts to 2,178, comprising 1,022 Professional, 1,056 General Service and 100 Trades and Crafts posts (table 26E.3).

VIII.56. The Advisory Committee inquired into the extent to which the budget estimates for section 26E were based on demand for conference services and was informed that the resources requested were not directly based on total demand for services. Rather, the estimates were on the basis of experience in terms of expenditures, output and capacity over the previous years. The Advisory Committee noted from the budget submission for section 26E that workload statistics were provided on almost all activities in conference and library services. However, in the view of the Advisory Committee, more should be done to make performance indicators more useful, to provide better cost information on meetings and documentation and to make a detailed analysis of the actual level of demand and output for conference services, for both formal and informal meetings.

VIII.57. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 26E.5 of the proposed programme budget that pursuant to section II, paragraph 42, of General Assembly resolution 48/228 A, the Secretary-General submitted to the Assembly a comprehensive study on the organization, management and human resources for the provision of adequate conference services (A/C.5/49/34). In paragraph 2 of the study, the Secretary-General stated that "the study found that the demand for conference services has increased significantly since 1991 and exceeds the capacity of Conference Services at the present level of staff and other resources". The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in paragraph 1 of its resolution 49/221 C of 23 December 1994, endorsed the findings and conclusions of the comprehensive study. The Advisory Committee also notes from paragraph 26E.5 that the Secretary-General's proposals contained in his proposed programme budget for 1996-1997 "take into account the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the comprehensive study, the recommendations of the Committee on Conferences in its report to the Assembly at its forty-ninth session (A/49/32/Rev.1) and the provisions of General Assembly resolution 49/221".

VIII.58. In response to inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that from 1988 to 1995 there had been a 45 per cent increase in the demand for interpretation and a 35 per cent increase in the demand for translation at Headquarters. A large part of the growth in the demand for conference services results from additional, unplanned meetings of regularly scheduled bodies. For the month of June 1995, for example, while the calendar of conferences for New York included 235 meetings, the number of meetings requested during that month amounted to 301 of which 270 meetings were provided with conference services and 31 meetings could not be serviced owing to the lack of conference servicing capacity.

VIII.59. On request, the Advisory Committee was provided with the following statistics on the number of meetings included in the calendar of conferences for Headquarters, the United Nations Office at Geneva and the United Nations Office at Vienna for 1992, 1993 and 1994 and meetings held outside the calendar of conferences during this period:

	1992	1993	1994
New York			
Calendar meetings	2 766	2 951	3 310
Non-calendar meetings	1 500	1 210	1 631
United Nations Office at Geneva			
Calendar meetings	6 188	6 764	6 667
Non-calendar meetings	238	217	155
United Nations Office at Vienna			
Calendar meetings	732	1 323	1 468
Non-calendar meetings	929	740	629

"Calendar" meetings are meetings of intergovernmental or expert United Nations bodies, regardless of the nature of the meetings (formal, informal consultations, etc.). "Non-calendar" meetings are all other meetings, including mainly meetings of regional groups, other groups of Member States or intergovernmental organizations, and meetings organized by the Secretariat at its own initiative. "Non-calendar" meetings are provided with conference services on an "as available" basis.

VIII.60. The Advisory Committee was also informed that during the period from 1988 to 1995, there had been a 12 per cent reduction in established posts for interpretation and a 15 per cent reduction in established posts for translation at Headquarters. The demand has been met through a combination of more advanced technology, improved management, increased productivity and the use of temporary assistance. The Advisory Committee was provided with the following statistics on the number of Professional work-months in the translation services both at Headquarters and the United Nations Office at Geneva financed in 1992, 1993 and 1994 from temporary assistance:

	1992	1993	1994
Headquarters	493	575	373
United Nations Office at Geneva	620	491	474

VIII.61. The Advisory Committee notes from table 26E.2 of the proposed programme budget that a provision of $5,873,200 under contractual services reflects resource growth of $1,863,800 before recosting, or 46.4 per cent over the revised 1994-1995 appropriations. The growth is a result of the contracting out of translation. Currently, close to 20 per cent of all translation work at Headquarters is done contractually. The Advisory Committee welcomes this trend since experience has indicated that contractual translation is more cost effective.

VIII.62. The Advisory Committee was also informed, upon inquiry, that more efforts are being made to broaden the use of remote translation of in-session documentation of meetings held away from established headquarters. Initially, this arrangement was used as a back-up to deal with workloads that exceeded on-site capacity. Later, minimal teams of translators were assigned to the meetings and most of the documents were processed by remote translation. For the first time, earlier in 1995, at the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders held at Cairo, all in-session documentation for a major conference was processed remotely at an established headquarters location, with no on-site translation or text-processing capacity. A similar arrangement is planned for the Fourth World Conference on Women at Beijing. The Advisory Committee welcomes this approach, since it allows for a substantial reduction in the number of conference-servicing staff that have to be dispatched to major conferences, with the related reduction in costs, particularly for host Governments.

VIII.63. As stated in paragraph 26E.16 of the proposed programme budget, three posts (one ASG, one D-1 and one P-4) are proposed for redeployment from the Office of the Director of Conference Services, New York, to section 26D, Support services, which will be partially offset by a proposed redeployment of a P-5 post from that section to the Office of the Director. The proposed redeployment of one ASG, one D-1 and one P-4 post relates to the reorganization of the Department of Administration and Management. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposed redeployment.

VIII.64. With regard to the proposed redeployment to the Office of the Director of Conference Services, New York, of a P-5 post from the Procurement and Transportation Division (section 26D, Support services), the Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 26D.41 that the redeployment is proposed "in connection with the consolidation of planning and coordination functions of that Office". The Advisory Committee shares the view of the Secretary-General stated in paragraph 26E.6 of the proposed programme budget, namely, that the planning aspects of conference services need to be strengthened to achieve an integrated approach to the utilization of resources and facilities available in New York, Geneva and Vienna. The Advisory Committee recommends in favour of the redeployment.

VIII.65. As stated in paragraphs 26E.9 and 26E.27, the reduction of 13 General Service posts in the text-processing pools of the Editorial and official records services is a result of the continued application of new technologies to the document-processing services; of these posts, 8 are proposed for abolition, 2 for redeployment to the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General (sect. 26D) and 3 for redeployment to the Publishing services, New York. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposal.

VIII.66. The Advisory Committee notes that no changes in the number or composition of staff are proposed under subprogramme 2, Meeting, interpretation and verbatim reporting services, New York. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 26E.17 that a provision of $29,676,400 is made under other staff costs for temporary assistance for meetings ($24,510,700), general temporary assistance ($1,078,400) and overtime ($4,087,300). The Advisory Committee was informed that out of the $24.5 million budgeted in 1996-1997 for temporary assistance for meetings in New York, approximately $11.5 million relates to the hiring of freelance interpreters at headquarters.

VIII.67. The Advisory Committee was also informed that as at 31 May 1995 5 interpreter posts (3 P-5 and 2 P-2) remained vacant out of 118 interpreter posts in the Interpretation Service, New York, and that the vacancies were not being used for any other purposes. The Advisory Committee recommends that necessary measures be taken so that the vacant interpreter posts be filled as soon as possible. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee points out that provision on a continuing basis of conference services by freelance interpreters is more expensive and that it is easier to manage the provision of these services and to meet additional needs on short notice with staff on board. The Advisory Committee therefore recommends that the Secretary-General include in the context of his next budget submission proposals to address this question.

VIII.68. Under subprogramme 3, Translation services, New York, the Secretary-General proposes the establishment of six new P-3 posts and the reclassification of five P-2 posts to the P-3 level. Explanation in support of the proposals is contained in paragraph 26E.33 (a) and (b). The Advisory Committee was informed, upon request, that the breakdown of the six additional posts by languages was as follows: Arabic - two posts, French - two posts, Russian - one post and Spanish - one post. The breakdown takes into account: (a) the post reduction that took place in 1992-1993 and its uneven impact on the staffing of the various services, and therefore on the quality of their output; and (b) official complaints received regarding the quality of translation into specific languages. The Advisory Committee recommends acceptance of the Secretary-General's proposal for the establishment of these six new posts.

VIII.69. The Secretary-General proposes the reclassification of five P-2 posts to the P-3 level in the Translation services, New York. The Advisory Committee understands that this proposal is due mainly to a lower turnover of staff at the P-3 level and to the statutory provisions in the contracts with translators who have passed the competitive exams and after a two-year trial period should be considered for promotion to the P-3 level. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposed reclassifications.

VIII.70. The staffing proposals under subprogramme 4, Publishing services, New York, provide for the establishment of one P-5 post and one P-4 post and for the redeployment of three General Service (Other level) posts from the text-processing units of the Editorial and official records services, New York. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 26E.37 (a) that the new posts are requested in connection with "the development of a computer-based system for full text transmission" and owing to the fact that two posts (one P-5 and one P-4) out of the three that for this purpose were loaned to the Publishing services, New York, can no longer be provided as a loan in 1996-1997. In response to inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the posts will be required in order to develop a system that would provide a complete flow of documentation in electronic form and would be linked to the Documents Retrieval Information and Tracking System (DRITS) and to the optical disk system. The latter system should cut costs in the production of hardcopy paper documents. Enhanced text-processing techniques and typographic design have already allowed for time savings in the preparation and printing of some documents, for example the proposed programme budget, and has eliminated the need for contractual typesetting. By mid-1996 it is expected that the majority of documents in simple format will be reformatted for electronic issuance. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the establishment of these two new posts (one P-5 and one P-4).

VIII.71. With regard to the proposed redeployment of three General Service (Other level) posts from the text-processing pools of the Editorial and official records services, New York, to the Publishing services, New York, to carry out the new functions of archiving documents on the optical disk system, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposed redeployment.

VIII.72. In connection with requirements of $5,887,700 under subprogramme 4, Publishing services, New York, for the purchase of paper, film and chemicals, ink, plates and other supplies (para. 26E.39), the Advisory Committee inquired into the level of paper waste (spoilage) in the reproduction plant at Headquarters and was informed that for similar types of work, the level of waste (spoilage) is about the same as in commercial printing plants. However, there is more spoilage in the United Nations reproduction plant than in commercial plants in those cases in which the United Nations plant is required to produce documents with short runs or to produce documents within extremely tight deadlines. These conditions may also, on occasion, require the use of equipment better suited to other types of work, maximizing speed of production at the expense of efficient use of paper. The Advisory Committee recommends a study of the problem be made with a view to arriving at a satisfactory solution.

VIII.73. Resource requirements for conference and library services at Geneva show negative growth of $5,345,600 before recosting, or 2.9 per cent compared with the revised 1994-1995 appropriations. As can be seen from table 26E.24, the only object of expenditure where an increase of resources is proposed is contractual services ($484,700). This increase reflects, to a large extent, an Organization-wide shift to contracting out translation work, wherever this proves satisfactory and cost-effective.

VIII.74. The proposed staffing table for conference and library services at Geneva provides for the abolition of seven General Service (Other level) posts under subprogramme 1, Editorial and official records services, and one General Service (Other level) post under subprogramme 2, Meeting, interpretation and verbatim reporting services, the reclassification of six P-2 posts to the P-3 level under subprogramme 3, Translation services, and for the abolition of one P-2 post and one General Service (Other level) post under subprogramme 5, Library information services. The Advisory Committee points out that the proposed abolition of the posts relates mainly to the increased productivity stemming from investment in office automation technology and to the efforts of the administration to improve efficiency in conference servicing. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of these proposals, including the proposed reclassifications.

VIII.75. The estimates for conference and library services at Vienna for the biennium 1996-1997 reflect, for the first time, the full biennial cost of a unified conference service, which was established at Vienna with effect from 1 April 1995 in accordance with section III of General Assembly resolution

49/237 of 31 March 1995. However, as stated in paragraph 26E.83, the new arrangements for conference services at Vienna will not result in a net increase of expenditures owing to the significant increase of offsetting income arising from the reimbursement by UNIDO for services rendered to it, as well as the growth in revenue from IAEA for the expanded interpretation services provided to it by the United Nations.

VIII.76. The proposed staffing table for the conference and library services at Vienna for the biennium 1996-1997 provides for the establishment of a D-1 post to head the Interpretation and Meeting Service and a P-4 post to head the Meeting Planning and Servicing Section and for the abolition of two posts (one P-5 and one P-2). Information relating to the proposed establishment and abolition of the posts is contained in paragraphs 26E.82 and 26E.91 of the proposed programme budget. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposed abolition of two posts (one P-5 and one P-2). However, the Advisory Committee was not convinced of the need for the establishment of a D-1 post to head the Interpretation and Meeting Service and a P-4 post to head the Meeting Planning and Servicing Section; therefore, the Advisory Committee does not recommend the establishment of these two posts.

Section 26F. Administration, Geneva

VIII.77. Resource requirements under section 26F reflect negative resource growth of $2,125,000 (before recosting), or 1.7 per cent to the revised 1994-1995 appropriations. Breakdown of the growth by object of expenditure is contained in table 26.2. The Advisory Committee was informed that a management study of the office has been under way. During the first phase attention was given to budget and financial control.

VIII.78. The proposed staffing table for the Division of Administration, Geneva, for the biennium 1996-1997 provides for the abolition, as of 1997, of 1 P-5 post and 1 General Service (Other level) post and the reclassification, as of 1997, of one P-3 post to the P-4 level in the Administrative Services (see para. 26F.14), the abolition of 13 General Service (Other level) posts in the General Services and for the redeployment of one General Service (Other level) post from the Staff Training to the Administrative Services.

VIII.79. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon inquiry, that the proposed abolition, as of 1997, of two posts (1 P-5 and 1 General Service/Other level) in the Administrative Services was owing to the streamlining of functions in the Service and did not reflect the impact of IMIS which would be felt at a later stage of its development at the United Nations Office at Geneva. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposed abolition of the two posts and the proposed reclassification of a P-3 post to the P-4 level.

VIII.80. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 26F.21 of the proposed programme budget that the proposed abolition of 13 General Service (Other level) posts was made possible by the consolidation of organizational units and the streamlining of procedures. In response to inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that six posts (office clerks) would be abolished in the Purchase and Transportation Section, five posts (two registry clerks, one mailing clerk and two messengers) in the Registry, Records and Mailing Section and two posts (telephone operators) in the Electronic Services Section. The Advisory Committee welcomes the efforts of the administration of the United Nations Office at Geneva to increase efficiency and productivity of its organizational units and recommends approval of the proposed abolition of 13 General Service posts.

VIII.81. The General Service posts proposed under section 26F, United Nations Office at Geneva, will provide common service support at Geneva, including registry, records and mailing services, building and engineering services, security and safety, purchase and transportation services and electronic services. The Advisory Committee was provided, on request, with the breakdown of the 340 regular and extrabudgetary General Service posts shown in table 26F.9 by organizational units within the Division of Administration, which is as follows:

	Regular budget	Extrabudgetary
Office of the Chief	3	1
Security and Safety Unit	76	8
Purchase, Transportation and Internal Services	47	8
Registry, Records and Mailing	64	1
Building and Engineering	77	-
Electronic Services Section	47	8
Total	314	26

The Advisory Committee is of the view that the number of General Service staff, as shown in the above table, is still excessive and it recommends, therefore, that the Secretary-General consider further streamlining and consolidation of functions performed by General Service staff at the United Nations Office at Geneva on the basis of advantages resulting from technological innovations. This recommendation should be kept under consideration during the implementation of the second phase of the management review referred to above, which the Advisory Committee requests be completed expeditiously, and that the related proposals be reflected in the next budget submission for the United Nations Office at Geneva.

VIII.82. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 26F.22 of the proposed programme budget that $4,025,400 before recosting is proposed for other staff costs, comprising $1,665,700 for temporary assistance for meetings, $918,800 for general temporary assistance and $1,440,900 for overtime. The Advisory Committee was informed that the general temporary assistance provisions are currently used to fund temporary posts for nine part-time cleaners and two security officers and that it is anticipated that this situation will continue in 1996-1997. The Advisory Committee is concerned about temporary assistance funds being used to finance de facto temporary posts, a situation that hampers adequate control of the staffing table. Therefore, the Advisory Committee requests the Secretary-General to identify in his next proposed programme budget such temporary positions which would have been continuously funded from general temporary assistance and to reflect the results as temporary posts in the staffing table.

Section 26G. Administration, Vienna

VIII.83. The estimate for section 26G amounts to $46,741,000 and reflects resource growth of $312,800 before recosting, or 0.7 per cent over the revised 1994-1995 appropriations. The Advisory Committee points out that the proposed programme budget for section 26G reflects the transfer of administrative service functions previously provided by UNIDO to the Division of Administrative and Common Services of the United Nations Office at Vienna, which is expected to be completed at the end of 1995, and the establishment of a unified conference service as of 1 April 1995. In view of this, the Advisory Committee requests the Secretary-General to keep under review the question of the efficiency of the joint services.

VIII.84. A new P-4 post for a Budget Officer is requested in paragraph 26G.17 of the proposed programme budget, in order to carry out programme planning and budgeting functions in the Division, which currently has no officer assigned to that function. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the P-4 post.

VIII.85. The Advisory Committee notes from table 26G.12 and paragraph 26G.36 of the proposed programme budget that a provision of $911,100, which includes growth of $428,900 before recosting, is proposed for the acquisition and replacement of different types of office automation equipment and software. The Advisory Committee recommends that purchase of such equipment and software be closely coordinated with the Electronic Services Division at Headquarters to ensure compatibility of standards. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General include in his next proposed programme budget information on any savings resulting from the Organization's investments in new technologies.

Section 26H. Administration, Nairobi

VIII.86. The estimates under section 26H, which amount to $12,998,000 (table 26H.2), and reflect the establishment of a United Nations common administration in Nairobi, show negative resource growth of $469,500 before recosting, or 4.2 per cent compared with the revised 1994-1995 appropriations. The Advisory Committee points out the revised 1994-1995 appropriations, which amount to $11,072,000, include $4,589,500 from UNEP and $1,618,400 from Habitat administration, transferred for the creation of the newly established United Nations Office at Nairobi (para. 26H.2).

VIII.87. As stated in paragraph 26H.3, the streamlining of administration of the structures in Nairobi would result in the elimination of 59 posts, of which 11 are funded from the regular budget and 48 are funded from extrabudgetary resources. In response to inquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with the breakdown of the posts proposed for abolition, as follows:

(a) Regular budget (11 posts):

1 D-1 - Chief of United Nations Common Services, Nairobi
1 P-5 - Chief of Language Services
1 P-2 - associate travel officer
5 Local level - secretaries and administrative assistants
3 Local level - sales clerks and assistants

(b) Extrabudgetary (48 posts):

- 1 D-1 - Chief of Administration, UNCHS
- 3 P-4 - training, finance and procurement officers
- 3 P-3 - finance, personnel and procurement officers
- 2 P-2 - associate budget and personnel officers
- 39 Local level - secretaries and Administrative Assistants

The Advisory Committee welcomes the efforts to streamline the administrative structures in Nairobi and recommends approval of the proposed abolition of posts.

VIII.88. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was also informed that in addition to the staffing structure of the United Nations Office at Nairobi, reflected in table 26H.3, 12 security and safety positions were proposed for continued funding under general temporary assistance and that a proposal for their conversion into posts would be considered in the context of a review of the Security and Safety Service which was currently under way. The Advisory Committee requests the Secretary-General to identify in his next proposed programme budget such temporary positions, which would have been continuously funded from general temporary assistance (see also discussion under sect. 26G above).

PART IX. JOINTLY FINANCED ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES AND SPECIAL EXPENSES

IX.1. The Secretary-General's estimate for part IX, Jointly financed administrative activities and special expenses, amounts to $68,347,000, comprising $27,447,400 for jointly financed administrative activities (section 27) and $40,899,600 for special expenses (section 28).

Section 27. Jointly financed administrative activities

IX.2. Provisions under this section are requested for six inter-agency funded bodies of the United Nations: (a) ICSC and its secretariat ($10,901,400); (b) JIU and its secretariat ($9,021,500); (c) the United Nations share in the budget of the secretariats of subsidiary bodies of ACC: the Information Systems Coordination Committee ($441,000), the Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions (CCAQ) ($494,600), and the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions (CCPOQ) ($170,100); and (d) the International Computing Centre (ICC) ($6,418,800). As indicated in paragraph 27.3, the total resources for ICSC and JIU are requested under section 27; the reimbursement from other participating organizations is to be credited to the United Nations under income section 2.

A. International Civil Service Commission

IX.3. The Advisory Committee notes from table 27.4 that a resource reduction of $247,800 before recosting is proposed in the programme budget of ICSC for the biennium 1996-1997. As indicated in table 27.5 and paragraph 27.20, the proposed number of established regular posts at ICSC is 46 posts (21 Professional posts and 25 General Service posts), reflecting a reduction of 1 General Service post. In response to its inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that a proposed resource growth of $31,100 before recosting shown in table 27.4 for consultants and experts, reflected the estimated costs of acquisition of price data from private and governmental sources for the cost-of-living surveys undertaken by the Commission at headquarters and field duty stations.

B. Joint Inspection Unit

IX.4. With regard to JIU, the Advisory Committee notes from paragraphs 27.32 and 27.33 that the Unit's proposed work programme for 1996-1997 includes increased inspection, evaluation and investigation of the United Nations peace-keeping operations and humanitarian issues. The Advisory Committee also notes from paragraph 27.29 that in accordance with the agreement reached for the biennium 1994-1995, the cost of JIU is to be shared by participating organizations on the basis of final expenditures in the organizations' biennial financial statements. Furthermore, it notes that in the case of the United Nations, expenditures of specially assessed peace-keeping budgets have been excluded from the formula and that, consequently, the share of the United Nations is estimated at 21.34 per cent of the total cost of JIU in 1996-1997. Accordingly, as stated in paragraph 27.29, approximately 78.66 per cent is expected to be reimbursed to the United Nations by the other participating organizations.

IX.5. The Advisory Committee recalls that in resolution 48/221 of 23 December 1993, the General Assembly had invited the Unit to put more emphasis on inspection and evaluation and requested the Secretary-General and the Unit to study and to report to the Assembly on means by which JIU could enhance its inspection and evaluation of specific activities, such as peace-keeping operations, humanitarian assistance, operational activities for development and technical and financial matters.

IX.6. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the Unit's programme of work for 1995 envisaged 14 reviews (4 investigations, 5 inspections, 4 evaluations and 1 inspection-evaluation). The Unit also prepared annually management letters to heads of participating organizations on the activities of the organizations in areas of competence of the Unit. It was indicated that, of the total number of reviews the Unit is conducting in 1995, five reviews dealt with the United Nations, seven were system-wide endeavours and two addressed specific concerns of organizations. With regard to the field of activity, it was mentioned that eight reviews were devoted to administrative and management issues, two referred to development and technical cooperation matters, two dealt with peace-keeping operations and two related to humanitarian assistance.

IX.7. The Advisory Committee notes from table 27.6 that there is a proposed resource growth of $53,600 before recosting, which is attributable principally to staff training and to the provision and maintenance of automated office equipment and data-processing services. As indicated in table 27.7 and paragraph 27.38, the number of proposed established posts for 1996-1997 remains at the same level as for the biennium 1994-1995 (8 Professional posts and 10 General Service posts). The Advisory Committee notes that the number of Professional posts (eight) is the same as in 1978-1979. The number of General Service posts was reduced by three between 1978-1979 and 1990-1991 and has remained unchanged since then.

IX.8. The Advisory Committee believes that the Secretary-General's budget proposal for JIU in 1996-1997 should be considered in the light of the requirements of General Assembly resolution 48/221, with regard to the Unit's programme of work (see paras. IX.5 and IX.6 above), as well as the need to strengthen the external oversight control mechanisms, as emphasized by the Assembly in its resolution 48/218 B. In this connection, JIU representatives informed the Advisory Committee of the Unit's concern about the adequacy of staff resources submitted in the Secretary-General's budget proposal.

IX.9. The Advisory Committee notes from table 27.6 of the proposed programme budget that the travel estimate for 1996-1997 amounts to nearly $600,000 before recosting. The Advisory Committee requests the Unit to review its practice of allocating travel funds so as to ensure their most efficient use. In this connection, the Advisory Committee suggests that thought be given to a system of allocating travel funds in accordance with specific studies and activities related to the implementation of the programme of work as approved by the Unit.

IX.10. The Advisory Committee recalls that in its resolution 48/221, paragraph 12, the General Assembly requested "the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the participating organizations, without prejudice to article 20 of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, to consider providing the Unit with extrabudgetary resources and programme support for specific activities of inspection, evaluation and investigation in those areas which are linked to those resources". The Advisory Committee recommends that the

Secretary-General report on the steps taken and arrangements made in this regard.

C. Information Systems Coordination Committee

IX.11. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 27.45 of the proposed programme budget that in October 1993, ACC decided to replace the Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Information Systems (ACCIS) with a new committee called the Information Systems Coordinating Committee (ISCC), with revised terms of reference, as described in paragraph 27.45.

IX.12. As indicated in paragraphs 27.49 and 27.50, the total ISCC budget requirements for the biennium 1996-1997 amount to $1,518,200 before recosting, and the share of the United Nations, under the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997, amounts to $430,000, or 28.32 per cent of the total. Posts required by ISCC for 1996-1997 include the post of the Secretary of the Committee at the D-1 level and one General Service post.

IX.13. The Advisory Committee notes significant resource growth of $159,300 or 109.3 per cent over the 1994-1995 appropriation in the provisions for consultants and experts (table 27.8). The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 27.94 that when ACCIS was replaced by ISCC, it was agreed that the International Computing Centre (ICC) would take over many of the operational functions that were previously performed by the ACCIS secretariat. The Advisory Committee points out that ICC could also play an active role in the implementation of the activities proposed for ISCC, thus avoiding duplication of efforts and enhancing better use of scarce resources. To this end, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General and the organizations participating in ICC review this question, taking into account the rapid pace of technological change throughout the United Nations system.

Section 28. Special expenses

IX.14. The Secretary-General's estimate for section 28 amounts to $35,339,100 before recosting. As shown in table 28.1 (1) of the proposed programme budget, resource growth is estimated at $2,544,000 over the 1994-1995 appropriations. The Advisory Committee notes that the increase is attributable mainly to the cost of after-service health insurance.

IX.15. As indicated in table 28.3 (1) of the proposed programme budget, the estimated after-service health insurance coverage increased from $28,671,300 in 1994-1995 to an estimate of $31,056,100 for 1996-1997 before recosting, an increase of $2,384,800, or 8.3 per cent. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 28.5 of the proposed programme budget that cost containment measures for this item have been implemented during the course of the biennium 1994-1995.

IX.16. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that cost containment measures included the continuation of a mechanism known as Individual Case Management, under which costly treatments, frequently involving hospitalization, were managed in consultation with attending physicians with a view to identifying alternative, less costly courses of treatment; since 1994, a $2,000 annual benefit limit had been implemented in connection with the dental plan; and with effect from 1 August 1995, a discount prescription drug plan would be implemented in respect of Aetna and Blue Cross/Wrap Around Plus plans, under which the cost of prescription drugs to participants would be substantially reduced. With regard to the latter measure, which related to both active and retired participants, the subsidy requirement was estimated to be $325,000 lower in the first year of the drug discount programme than would be the case without it.

IX.17. The Advisory Committee noted the statement in paragraph 28.5 that "the cost of medical services continue to rise at rates higher than the cost of living". Upon inquiry about the long-term implications of this trend, the Advisory Committee was informed that an actuarial study, comparable to that carried out by the World Bank, was under way to assess the future viability of the scheme. The Advisory Committee welcomes this study and looks forward to receiving its conclusions and recommendations.

IX.18. In table 28.3 (2) of the proposed programme budget, the share of the cost of maintaining the after-service health insurance programme from extrabudgetary sources has been estimated at $3,715,500, or 10.2 per cent of the total requirement for 1996-1997. The Advisory Committee notes in paragraph 28.6 of the proposed programme budget that the estimate is based on an analysis of the relative share of staff members enrolled in the after-service health insurance programme at the end of 1994 who, at the time of retirement, were financed from extrabudgetary sources. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that 364 former staff members out of a total number of 3,191 enrolled at the end of 1994 had encumbered extrabudgetary posts at the time of retirement. While this number amounted to 11.4 per cent of the total enrolment, the actual proportion of the total subsidy requirement for this group amounted 10.2 per cent only because out of the 364 participants, a relatively high proportion served outside the Headquarters duty station area and retired outside the United States with lower medical and health insurance costs than applicable in the United States.

IX.19. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 28.10 of the proposed programme budget that the number of claims submitted for review by the Advisory Board on Compensation Claims and by the United Nations Claims Board amounted to 200 in 1990, 262 in 1991, 242 in 1992, 283 in 1993 and 570 in 1994. Upon inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the two Boards were serviced by a staff of three (one P-4 and two General Service). In view of the rising number of claims, the Advisory Committee recommends that adequate staff resources be made available, through redeployment, to process these claims.

IX.20. With regard to bank charges, it is the view of the Advisory Committee that the amount of $162,900 charged to the Organization by banks is high. In this connection, the Advisory Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will take the necessary steps to secure reduced bank charges, especially in view of the considerable level of United Nations funds which are handled by these banks.

IX.21. With regard to interorganizational security measures, the Advisory Committee was informed that owing to each organization developing its own communication capability, in many cases staff from one agency were unable to communicate with staff from another agency in an emergency. In this connection, the Advisory Committee recommends the introduction of compatible emergency communication systems for the organizations of the United Nations system.

IX.22. The Advisory Committee was also informed that there were instances in which further unilateral actions had been taken by, for example, United Nations programmes or funds, to hire field security personnel, often as consultants at considerably higher costs, without reference to the United Nations Security Coordinator. In this connection, the Advisory Committee emphasizes the need for an effective unified security coordination system to enhance the security and safety of the staff of the organizations of the United Nations system.

IX.23. With regard to the presence of dependants at duty stations that have been designated as non-family duty station for security reasons, the Advisory Committee was informed that procedures relating to the requirements of non-family stations had been considerably tightened and would be strictly applied.

IX.24. The Advisory Committee notes that the United Nations has published a Field Security Handbook relating to system-wide arrangements for the protection of United Nations personnel and property in the field. The Advisory Committee welcomes this publication.

IX.25. In paragraph 28.21 of the proposed programme budget an amount of $3.6 million has been requested to provide for life insurance coverage for staff members. The Advisory Committee notes that the coverage is for staff and not for property and is related to malicious acts only. As for property measures, the Advisory Committee was informed that the type of property risk involved is called "political risk" by insurers, i.e., risks comprising the perils of civil commotion, insurrection, riot, sabotage, forced abandonment, confiscation, etc. Insurance covering some or all of these perils is potentially available in a limited number of insurance markets. It should be borne in mind, however, that indications of insurer interest in covering such risks for the United Nations as well as estimates of the cost of such coverage would require the provision of a substantial amount of underwriting data, including details of the type and value of the property to be covered, the location of the property or mobile assets, and security measures in place. The Advisory Committee requests the Secretary-General to look into this matter and report in the context of his proposals for the 1998-1999 biennium.

IX.26. A provision of $369,400 has been made for pension payments to former Secretaries-General. As indicated in paragraph 28.28, this estimate had been provided for under section 1. The Advisory Committee notes that provision for retirement allowances of former Secretaries-General is governed by General Assembly resolution 45/251 of 21 December 1990.

PART X. OFFICE OF INTERNAL OVERSIGHT SERVICES

Section 29. Office of Internal Oversight Services

X.1. As indicated in paragraph 29.1 of the proposed programme budget, the Office of Internal Oversight Services was established in September 1994 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/218 B. The Office initially had only the resources appropriated for the units whose functions it absorbed. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, at its forty-ninth session, in December 1994, approved the establishment of eight additional posts (two P-5, two P-4, one P-3, two General Service (Principal level) and one General Service (Other level) post).

X.2. As can be seen from tables 29.1 and 29.2 of the proposed programme budget, the total level of resources proposed is $14,859,400 before recosting, an increase of $2,831,700, which signifies a growth rate of 23.5 per cent. Most of the increase is related to proposals to establish 14 additional posts (1 D-1, 4 P-5, 4 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 General Service (Principal level) and 2 General Service (Other level)), partially offset by the redeployment to the Office of Human Resources Management of 1 P-5 and 2 General Service (Principal level) posts with their functions. Bearing in mind its comments on the subject of the ratio of support staff in chapter I above, the Advisory Committee recommends that, with the exception of the two General Service (Other level) posts proposed for subprogrammes 2 and 4, the other 12 posts be approved.

X.3. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 29.6 of the budget submission that the Office of the Under-Secretary-General provides overall direction, supervision and management of the Office of Internal Oversight Services; it is responsible for the planning and monitoring of the work programme of the Office of Internal Oversight Services as well as for providing administrative support to the whole office. As indicated in table 29.1 of the budget submission, in addition to the Office of the Under-Secretary-General, the programme of work has been distributed between four different subprogrammes, namely Evaluation, Audit and management consulting, Monitoring and inspection, and Investigations.

X.4. In its consideration of biennial budgets, the Advisory Committee has consistently recommended the strengthening of the audit areas within the Secretariat, even during those times when it had recommended reductions in all other sections of the budget. However, the Advisory Committee recalls that the Board of Auditors had conducted an evaluation of the internal audit function in the United Nations as discharged by the Internal Audit Division in New York and in Geneva. In its report, 10/ the Board identified a number of shortcomings in the internal audit coverage of the Organization. The Board, inter alia, stated that "the review indicated that the manner of determining audit coverage appears inadequate"; it also stated that the "present staff complement of the Division is significantly below the expected level of performance" and recommended that "the staff resources of the Division should be reviewed, in terms of number and classification of posts, the existing and desired levels of competencies of the staff, and the hiring and promotion policies which tend to impede the installation of a cadre of competent and qualified internal auditors at the United Nations".

X.5. With regard to audit planning the Board observed that,

> "The review of the Division's planning formulation process and of the audit plans showed that no long-term plan had been adopted. The annual

> plans do not incorporate important information needed to make them operational, such as: the number of staff-days, the estimated audit time, financial allocations, as well as possible constraints and limitations that could be encountered in the audit execution. In addition, it was noted that there is no common term of measurement of programmed outputs in the annual audit plan. This makes it difficult to compare planned outputs and delivered outputs." 11/

X.6. With regard to Geneva-based activities, besides several shortcomings in audit planning, the Board of Auditors observed 12/ that these activities had received limited audit coverage by the Internal Audit Division; and major reviews of budgetary and financial controls had not been executed for years. Consequently, the Division could not ascertain that financial and operating records contained accurate, reliable and complete information. No value for money audits were carried out and programmes were seldom evaluated.

X.7. The Advisory Committee recalls that the General Assembly, in resolution 47/211 of 23 December 1992, had approved the recommendations and conclusions of the Board of Auditors and the comments of the Advisory Committee as contained in its report (A/47/500), in which the Advisory Committee had requested that a report on corrective action taken in this regard should be submitted to the Assembly. The Advisory Committee now requests that the Board of Auditors follow up and report on this at the earliest, with a view to determining whether the Board's recommendations have been implemented and the situation rectified, following the establishment of the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

X.8. Table 29.2 of the proposed programme budget shows a growth of $129,000 (for a total estimate of $210,600) for the use of consultants and experts. Besides the fact that the narratives for this component are too general and should have been better explained, the Advisory Committee believes that the amount proposed for consultants is on the high side, particularly in view of the fact that in-house expertise, at least in certain areas of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, is expected to be enhanced with the creation of new posts.

PART XI. CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

XI.1. Part XI of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 covers section 30, Technological innovations, and section 31, Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance, for which an estimate of $68,315,100 is requested. No extrabudgetary resources are included in this part of the proposed programme budget. Staff requirements, with the exception of general temporary assistance under section 30, which relate to the implementation of activities programmed under part XI, are included under other sections of the budget, mostly under section 26, Administration and management.

Section 30. Technological innovations

XI.2. Resource requirements under section 30, which are estimated at $21,876,500, reflect a resource reduction of $4,660,300 before recosting, or 18.3 per cent compared with the revised 1994-1995 appropriations. The total of $21,876,500 comprises resource requirements for the following two programmes: (a) the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) ($19,586,000) and (b) the optical disk storage and retrieval system ($2,290,500).

XI.3. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 30.2 of the proposed programme budget that it is anticipated that development of the first phase of IMIS should be completed during the current biennium and that installation at all major offices should be completed during 1996-1997; the Advisory Committee also notes from that paragraph that IMIS has been adopted by ILO and UNDP.

XI.4. The Advisory Committee was provided with the following additional information regarding the current operations administered through IMIS at headquarters:

(a) More than 600 users connected to the system;

(b) Payroll disbursements made conditional upon updated contractual and post incumbency records in IMIS;

(c) A total of 7,418 staff members at 68 different duty stations administered through IMIS;

(d) Some 2,823 other household members and 28,894 former staff members' records available on line;

(e) Since April 1995, entitlements system activated for more than 25,000 personnel actions;

(f) On-line reporting system concerning human resources data installed in all executive offices, in the Field Administration and Logistics Division of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations and in the Department of Administration and Management offices.

XI.5. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraphs 30.7 and 30.8 of the proposed programme budget that IMIS activities in 1996-1997 will focus on the installation of the system at offices away from headquarters, on the establishment of a long-term maintenance infrastructure and on training world wide in the use and maintenance of the system. Table 30.4 contains estimates for the IMIS project budget and IMIS maintenance budget, as well as a breakdown of resource requirements by objects of expenditure; as reflected therein, for the biennium 1996-1997 the project budget is estimated at $11,967,600, and the maintenance budget is estimated at $7,618,400, for a total of $19,586,000.

XI.6. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 30.13 of the proposed programme budget that the estimates for the project budget for the biennium 1996-1997 are based on the estimates contained in the sixth progress report on IMIS (A/C.5/48/12/Add.1) and also includes a provision of $1 million (at initial 1994-1995 rates) for equipment deferred from 1994-1995 in accordance with the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, and the additional amount recommended by the Board of Auditors for contractual services ($1.6 million at initial 1994-1995 rates). The Advisory Committee points out the IMIS project budget proposed for 1996-1997 is the last project budget, bringing it to the estimated total of $63.3 million for the period from 1989 to 1997. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the proposed estimates of $11,967,600 for the IMIS project budget for 1996-1997. The Advisory Committee recommends that upon completion of the IMIS project, estimates for technological innovations should, in future budgets, be contained in the section for the activities to which they relate.

XI.7. As regards the maintenance budget, table 30.4 contains a breakdown of the total estimates requirements of $7,618,400 (at 1996-1997 rates) by object of expenditure. Explanation of resource requirements (at current rates) relating to the maintenance budget is provided in paragraphs 30.11, 30.20, 30.21 and 30.22 of the proposed programme budget. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 30.11 that the maintenance budget reflects the creation of a maintenance structure that will progressively replace the current development team. The Advisory Committee was informed that the staffing table of the IMIS central maintenance structure would provide for 37 posts as follows: 1 D-1, 6 P-5, 8 P-4, 12 P-3, 4 P-2 and 6 General Service posts; of the 37 posts, 8 have been redeployed to the IMIS central maintenance structure from within the Department of Administration and Management. It is expected that during the transitional period the remaining 29 posts that will become redundant because of the introduction of IMIS will be gradually redeployed to the maintenance structure. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon inquiry, that the eight staff redeployed to the IMIS maintenance structure are either programme analysts or computer assistants, and that their releasing offices are as follows:

(a) Three Professionals and one General Service (Other level) from the Systems Support Section, Accounts Division, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts;

(b) Two Professionals from the Infrastructure and Applications Support Section, Electronic Services Division, Office of Conference and Support Services;

(c) One Professional and one General Service (Other level) from the Training Service and the Compensation and Classification Service, respectively, Office of Human Resources Management.

XI.8. The Advisory Committee points out that the transfer of the eight posts to the IMIS maintenance structure constitutes a redeployment, which should have been requested in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997. Furthermore, it is not clear how many posts altogether are expected to become redundant because of the introduction of IMIS, what criteria are to be used for deciding which posts should be redeployed to the IMIS maintenance structure and which posts should be abolished. Therefore, the Advisory

Committee recommends that the Secretary-General clarify these issues in his seventh progress report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session.

XI.9. Paragraph 30.20 of the proposed programme budget contains a brief justification for the proposed requirements of $3.4 million under general temporary assistance. In response to its inquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the estimates are based on the estimated requirements for 210 work-months in 1996 and for 250 work-months in 1997. Subject to further clarification to be provided in the context of the progress report, the Advisory Committee recommends approval of the maintenance budget of $7,618,400, as proposed by the Secretary-General.

XI.10. The Advisory Committee inquired into the use of IMIS in procurement activities, particularly as concerns peace-keeping operations. The Advisory Committee was informed that a new version of the procurement package REALITY has been integrated into IMIS with a view to using the software worldwide and to establishing a common catalogue system for procuring goods and services. The package will also serve as a basis for property management and for warehousing, both at Headquarters and in the field. Moreover, the Advisory Committee was informed that all financial, procurement and personnel reporting for peace-keeping will, with the exception of locally recruited staff, be consolidated through IMIS. The deployment of IMIS at field locations will be considered progressively within the framework of the completion of the implementation of IMIS at offices away from Headquarters. The Advisory Committee welcomes these developments and expects that reporting on peace-keeping budget implementation, including performance reports for peace-keeping operations, will now be on a more timely basis.

XI.11. Resource requirements for the optical disk storage and retrieval system, which amount to $2,182,200 before recosting, reflect a resource reduction of $3,215,300, or 59.5 per cent as compared with the revised 1994-1995 appropriations. Explanation of resource requirements under general operating expenses ($2,033,700) and equipment ($148,500) is contained in paragraphs 30.30 to 30.32.

XI.12. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 30.28 that as of April 1995, 150 workstations had been connected to the system within the Secretariat as well as 20 permanent missions in New York and 22 in Geneva. With the installation of expanded access capacity, this number should grow during 1996-1997 to 1,000 workstations and 60 permanent missions in New York and 500 workstations and 60 permanent missions in Geneva. In addition, the proposed acquisition of 60 additional access ports (30 in New York and 30 in Geneva) will allow Member States to use the system from their capitals. In view of the considerable potential for savings, the Advisory Committee trusts that efforts will continue to be made, including the provision of advice and assistance, to make the optical disk system more widely accessible to permanent missions. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the budget estimates for the optical disk system in the amount of $2,290,500 for 1996-1997, as proposed by the Secretary-General. The Advisory Committee recommends that, in the future, estimates for the optical disk system be shown under the sections for the activities to which they relate.

Section 31. Construction, alteration, improvement and major maintenance

XI.13. Resource requirements under section 31, which are estimated at $42,534,500 before recosting, reflect a resource reduction of $15,912,600 before recosting, or 27.2 per cent as compared with the revised appropriation for 1994-1995. The total of $42,534,500 comprises resource requirements before recosting for the following two programmes: (a) alteration and improvement ($23,305,300) and (b) major maintenance ($19,229,200). The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 31.9 that the construction projects at ESCAP and ECLAC were completed in 1992 and 1993, respectively and construction at ECA is expected to be completed in 1995. Therefore, no resources are being requested for construction during the biennium 1996-1997.

XI.14. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 31.6 of the proposed programme budget that a number of projects proposed for 1996-1997 are either projects that were already approved by the General Assembly but needed to be deferred owing to the need to undertake other unforeseen emergency projects, or are a continuation of previously approved multi-year projects. In response to inquiry, the Advisory Committee was provided with the following additional information on the projects deferred from 1994-1995, multi-year phased projects carried over and new projects proposed for 1996-1997:

	Headquarters	United Nations Office at Geneva	ESCAP	ECLAC
	(Thousands of United States dollars)			
Alterations/improvements				
Projects deferred from 1994-1995	3 970.7	1 007.5	-	55.0
Multi-year phased projects carried over	4 195.0	716.4	-	270.0
New projects for 1996-1997	1 385.5	5 710.7	2 920.8	1 042.1
Total	9 551.2	7 434.6	2 920.8	1 367.1
Major maintenance				
Projects deferred from 1994-1995	189.5	-	820.0	-
Multi-year phased projects carried over	279.3	797.1	921.8	455.0
Recurrent projects each biennium	5 087.8	-	102.4	-
New projects for 1996-1997	2 221.1	3 586.5	563.3	530.0
Total	7 777.7	4 383.6	2 407.5	985.0

XI.15. As can be seen from the above table, the share of new projects in the total estimated requirements for alterations and/or improvements is

14.5 per cent for Headquarters, 76.8 per cent for the United Nations Office at Geneva, 100 per cent for ESCAP and 76.2 per cent for ECLAC. The share of new projects for 1996-1997 in the total estimated requirements for major maintenance is 28.5 per cent for Headquarters, 81.8 per cent for the United Nations Office at Geneva, 23.3 per cent for ESCAP and 53.8 per cent for ECLAC. The Advisory Committee is concerned about the relatively high proportion (41.5 per cent) in the total proposed requirements for alterations/improvements of projects deferred from 1994-1995 at Headquarters, compared with other duty stations (13.5 per cent for the United Nations Office at Geneva and 4.0 per cent for ECLAC). The Advisory Committee requests the Secretary-General to review this situation to ensure that there is a reasonable balance in the implementation of projects approved for the various duty stations. The Advisory Committee further requests that the Secretary-General include in his next budget submission for section 31, similar information as contained in the table above.

XI.16. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 31.8 of the proposed programme budget that a provision of $2,605,000 before recosting is requested for the proposed installation of earth telecommunications stations at ECLAC, ESCWA and the United Nations Office at Nairobi. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was provided with the following breakdown of the total of $2.6 million:

	United States dollars
Antenna at ECLAC	557 900
Antenna at ESCWA	389 200
Antenna at Nairobi	566 900
Site preparation (all locations)	352 300
Integration and installation (all locations)	738 700
	2 605 000

XI.17. The Advisory Committee understands that the General Assembly will consider, at its fiftieth session, a report of the Secretary-General on telecommunications. In the absence of a substantive report which could clarify many issues mentioned in General Assembly resolution 48/262, consideration of resource requirements relating to the installation of the above telecommunications stations seems, in the opinion of the Advisory Committee, premature. Therefore, the Advisory Committee recommends that the provision of $2,605,000 before recosting for the proposed telecommunications system be deleted from section 31 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 and that the Secretary-General include the related requirements in his next report on telecommunications to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session.

XI.18. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 31.10 (a) (i) of the proposed programme budget that a provision of $1,463,400 is proposed for a comprehensive study and development of a master plan for United Nations facilities in New York and the start-up of a 12-year phased priority renovation programme. The Advisory Committee points out that, for essentially the same purpose, the Secretary-General, in his proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, requested an amount of $900,000 against which the General Assembly authorized $500,000. The Advisory Committee was informed that $200,000 out of the $500,000 approved by the General Assembly was redeployed to unforeseen emergency projects and that the balance of $300,000 will be used to finance a portion of the project during the current biennium. The Advisory Committee was not provided with sufficient justification for the increase in the estimated cost of the project to $1,463,400 before recosting. The Advisory Committee recommends, therefore, that the estimated requirements for the project be reduced to $600,000 at 1996-1997 rates.

XI.19. The Advisory Committee also notes from paragraph 31.10 (a) (iv) of the proposed programme budget that a provision of $848,900 before recosting is proposed in connection with the four-year programme of structural and mechanical repairs and improvements to the building, formerly occupied by UNITAR. The Advisory Committee expects that the Secretary-General will ensure optimal use of this building.

XI.20. The Advisory Committee points out that projects under alteration, improvement and major maintenance are funded completely from the regular budget of the United Nations. However, it is not clear from the budget submission to what extent the current mechanism of programme support costs charged to extrabudgetary funds provides an adequate recovery of expenditures incurred by the Organization in maintaining buildings in which space is provided to staff funded from extrabudgetary sources. The Advisory Committee recommends that the Secretary-General look into this issue and propose, if required, the necessary changes to the current cost recovery mechanism in the context of his next budget submission.

XI.21. The Advisory Committee inquired into the role of the headquarters vis-à-vis offices away from headquarters with regard to coordination of building maintenance policies. The Advisory Committee was informed that the Building Management Service of the Office of Conference and Support Services provided an overall guidance to the offices away from headquarters and to the regional commissions in order to ensure a coordinated and systematic approach to the problems related to facilities management, major maintenance and construction. The Advisory Committee is not convinced that the coordination role of the Building Management Service has been delineated clearly and it requests the Secretary-General to clarify this matter in his next budget submission.

PART XII. STAFF ASSESSMENT

Section 32. Staff assessment

XII.1. As indicated in paragraph 32.1 of the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997, the salary and related emoluments of United Nations staff members are subject to the assessment rates in regulation 3.3 of the Staff Regulations of the United Nations and amendments thereon. The Advisory Committee notes that, for the purpose of comparability with the work programme and budget proposals of other organizations of the United Nations system, the Secretary-General has estimated the staff costs net of staff assessment under the various sections of expenditure of the proposed programme budget. The difference between gross and net salaries amounts to $368,603,200 for 1996-1997 and is requested by the Secretary-General as a global amount under section 32 of expenditure of the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997.

XII.2. The Advisory Committee notes that in accordance with the current budgetary procedure of the United Nations amounts withheld in the form of staff assessment are revenue to the Organization. Accordingly, the amount of $368,603,200 requested under section 32 is reflected in income section 1, Income from staff assessment (which also includes staff assessment income from staff charged to revenue-producing activities as indicated in paragraph IS1.2).

XII.3. The staffing changes recommended by the Advisory Committee in the present report result in a consequent decrease of $1,092,800 in the amount of staff assessment under section 32 of the proposed programme budget for 1996-1997.

PART XIII. INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY

Section 33. International Seabed Authority

XIII.1. As recalled in paragraph 33.1 of the proposed programme budget, the General Assembly decided, in its resolution 48/263, to fund the administrative expenses of the International Seabed Authority until the end of the year following the year during which the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 entered into force.

XIII.2. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 33.2 of the proposed programme budget that under the provisions of the Agreement, the maximum period during which the administrative expenses of the Authority would be met by the United Nations would be until the end of 1999. The Advisory Committee also notes that since it is not anticipated that the Agreement will enter into force in 1995, the administrative expenses of the Authority for 1996 will need to be met from the regular budget of the United Nations.

XIII.3. In paragraph 33.4 of the proposed programme budget, it is proposed to retain the 1994-1995 appropriation in the amount of $776,000 for 1996-1997, pending the submission of the budget of the authority to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session. The Advisory Committee has no objection to this proposal.

B. ESTIMATES OF INCOME

Income section 1. Income from staff assessment

IS1.1. The Secretary-General estimates $373,607,000 as the amount of staff assessment that will be levied under regulation 3.3 of the Staff Regulations of the United Nations on the salaries and emoluments of staff whose net pay has been included under the various expenditure sections and under income section 3. The amount levied and not otherwise disposed of by specific resolution of the General Assembly will be credited to the Tax Equalization Fund for distribution to Member States in the manner provided for in General Assembly resolution 973 A (X) of 15 December 1995.

IS1.2. The total estimate under income section 1 is $5,003,800 more than the total estimate under section 32 since the former includes income from staff assessment derived from the emoluments of staff who are charged to revenue-producing activities under income section 3; on the other hand, the staff assessment paid to such staff is shown under income section 3 rather than under section 32.

IS1.3. The staffing changes recommended by the Advisory Committee in the present report result in a consequent decrease of $1,092,800 in the amount of staff assessment income that will be realized in 1996-1997.

Income section 2. General income

IS2.1. As indicated in tables IS2.1 and IS2.2 of the proposed programme budget, the total estimate of general income for the biennium 1996-1997 amounts to $81,832,400, an increase of $20,902,600, or 34.3 per cent, compared with the estimates of $60,929,800 for 1994-1995. The Advisory Committee notes from table IS2.4 a significant increase of $13,670,200 in the reimbursement for services provided to specialized agencies and others. As indicated in paragraph IS2.2, the increase in the income estimates relating to the Vienna International Centre ($11,488,100) may be revised during the discussions to be held in 1996-1997 with the other organizations at the Centre on cost-sharing arrangements for both joint and common services. The Advisory Committee notes that changes in the estimates of income will be reported in the performance report.

IS2.2. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph IS2.1 and table IS2.3 that income from payment of rentals, by a number of specialized agencies and other entities connected with the activities of the Organization, for the occupancy of the United Nations premises in various locations is projected to increase by $2,625,600, or 19.2 per cent, from $13,606,300 in 1994-1995 to $16,231,900 in 1996-1997. The projected increase results primarily from full rental income on space chargeable to UNEP and other tenants at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, which will be offset by projected decreases in rental income in New York and Geneva. In this connection, as mentioned in the discussion under section 26D above, the Advisory Committee requests the Secretary-General to survey the terms of agreement under which various press organizations and other commercial entities occupy space in the United Nations buildings, with a view to considering charging appropriate rent for such space.

Income section 3. Service to the public

IS3.1. As indicated in paragraph IS3.1, the estimate for net revenue under income section 3 for the biennium 1996-1997 is projected at $5,982,000, which represents a decrease of $1,952,000, or 24.6 per cent, in comparison with the revised estimate of $7,934,000 for the biennium 1994-1995. Revenue-producing activities are carried out at Headquarters and at Geneva and Vienna by the Office of Conference and Support Services, the Department of Public Information, the United Nations Office at Geneva, the United Nations Office at Vienna and the Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis.

IS3.2. With reference to the posts financed from revenue-producing activities, the Committee notes from table IS3.5 that the Secretary-General proposes a staffing table of 138 established regular posts (25 Professional and 111 General Service and 2 Security Service posts), reflecting a decrease of 22 posts (1 Professional and 21 General Service posts), or 13.8 per cent from the level approved in the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

IS3.3. The Advisory Committee notes from table IS3.7 and paragraph IS3.7 that the increases in Executive Direction and Management of the Office of Conference and Support Services result from the proposal to establish within the Commercial Activities Service a distinct separate provision for the Office of the Chief (one D-1 and one General Service post redeployed from the Global and New York Offices of the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA), respectively) and an administrative unit (one P-4 and one P-3 redeployed from provisions for the Gift Centre and one P-4, one P-2 and five General Service posts redeployed from UNPA, New York).

IS3.4. The Advisory Committee notes from table IS3.17 and paragraph IS3.28 that a P-3 post from the Vienna Office of UNPA is proposed for redeployment to the European Office of UNPA to serve concurrently as Operations Chief, Europe and Chief, UNPA, Vienna. The post is to be reclassified at the P-4 level. The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the reclassification.

IS3.5. Sale of United Nations publications is addressed in paragraphs IS3.56 to IS3.61. The Advisory Committee's views on United Nations publications are contained, *inter alia*, in chapter I above and in section 25, Public information.

IS3.6. With regard to services to visitors, under the responsibility of the Department of Public Information, the Advisory Committee notes from tables IS3.2 and IS3.41 that the recurring deficit is expected to increase in 1996-1997. The deficit of total expenses against revenue from services to visitors at Headquarters, Geneva and Vienna is projected to increase by $1,013,300 from a deficit of $1,719,700 in 1994-1995 to $2,733,000 in 1996-1997 since, as mentioned in paragraph IS3.96, it is anticipated that a static or declining trend in the number of visitors will prevail in the three locations. The Advisory Committee notes that, as indicated in paragraph IS3.96, the increase in security measures at Headquarters have also adversely affected the tours, as the number of visitors per guide has been reduced.

Notes

1/ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/50/6/Rev.1), vol. I.

2/ Ibid., *Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7* (A/48/7).

3/ Ibid., Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/47/7 and Add.1-17), document A/47/7/Add.13.

4/ Ibid., Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/48/7), para. II.20.

5/ Ibid., Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 7A (A/49/7 and addenda), A/49/7/Add.12.

6/ Ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/46/7).

7/ Ibid., Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/48/7), para. IV.42.

8/ Ibid., Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 30 (A/49/30).

9/ Ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 7 (A/44/7), chap. II, para. 28D.2.

10/ Ibid., Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 5 (A/47/5), chap. II, paras. 288-302.

11/ Ibid., para. 297.

12/ Ibid, paras. 303-310.